



RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary Council Meeting

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

Date: Wednesday 31st January 2024 at 7pm.

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

Also in attendance:

Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO

Mr D Williams, Marketing & Communications Officer (left after 018/24)

014/24

APOLOGIES

(i) Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Dark (unwell), Cllr Young (family commitment), Cllr Driver (family commitment), Cllr Hudson (family commitment), Cllr Crittenden (unwell). No apologies were received from Cllr Ara.

(ii) Members received a written report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO, and considered whether to permit Cllr Dark to be absent from Council Meetings (due to ill health) for an extended period of absence. The Town Clerk will try to ascertain Cllr Dark's likely recovery time, and whether Cllr Dark wishes to return.

RESOLUTION: Cllr Dark's absence will be considered on a monthly basis at Council meetings.

015/24

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest declared.

016/24

PUBLIC REQUESTS TO SPEAK

There were no public requests to speak.

017/24

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

Members received the draft Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 29th November 2023 (Minute no; 214/23-221/23).

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

018/24

FINANCES (INCL. GRANTS)

- (i) Council received a report of payments; the Council was asked to note the payments between 25th November 2023 and 31st January 2024 authorised by the Town Clerk & RFO (total: £22,094.10) and approve the payments above the threshold delegated to the Town Clerk & RFO (total: £184,987.45).

RESOLUTIONS: The payments authorised by the Town Clerk (total £22,094.10) were noted and the payments above the threshold of the Town Clerk (total £184,987.45) were approved.

- (ii) Members received a report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO, regarding the precept and budget for 2024/2025. The Council was asked to approve the precept and budget at this meeting. This reported included the previously report list of significant changes to the budget, and information about the CommunityAd magazine and East Cliff Lift as previously requested. It was AGREED that a separate monthly report detailing income and expenditure specific to Radford House will be provided.

RESOLUTIONS:

- a. **A recommendation by the Town Promotion Committee for the unspent Ramsgate Events Budget (for our own events) of £13,000.00 to be carried over into the 2024/2025 year for the Obelisk Project was approved.**
- b. **Any unspent funds from 2023/2024 that are not earmarked for specific projects or ring-fenced budgets, will be vired into the 2024/2025 “Capital Projects & Asset Acquisitions Budget”; for members to allocate as required throughout the year.**
- c. **The draft budget was approved and the precept set at £1,060,107.00, which represents a 4% increase (an additional £3.29 for the year on a Band D property). It was noted that this figure may change by a small amount in order to meet TDC’s criteria.**

019/24

REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Councillors considered an invitation from Thanet District Council to appoint a representative to the newly formed “Regeneration Partnership Board”, the Terms of Reference for the Board was provided. Members were asked to consider a motion from the Chair, Cllr Albon, that Cllr Green be the Council’s representative. Cllr Green confirmed that he would report back after each meeting.

RESOLUTION: That Cllr Green will be the Council’s nominated representative on this group.

020/24

ASSETS : WARRE REC SKATEPARK

Councillors received a written report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO, regarding the Warre Rec Skatepark, and note the information contained therein.

021/24

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 items of business.

(ii) Councillors received a report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO, and consider how to proceed with the request from a tenant at The Custom House to assign the Lease.

RESOLUTION: This information was noted and the Finance & General Purposes Committee will manage the specifics of the assignment.

(iii) Councillors received a verbal update from Cllr Green regarding Kent County Council's support for youth services.

RESOLUTION: The Chair & Town Clerk will write to KCC expressing the Council's concerns about KCC's proposed cutback to youth services, and a meeting with Pie Factory Music will be requested.

022/24

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 28th February 2024 at 7pm.