



RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of an Extra-Ordinary Council Meeting

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

Date: Wednesday 3rd November 2021 at 7pm

Present: Councillors; Nixey (Chair), Albon, Ara, Austin, Crittenden, Green, Huxley, Makinson, Moore, L Piper, Rusiecki & Young

Also in attendance; Miss L Fidler (Town Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer – Minutes), Mr D Williams (Digital Communications and Marketing Officer), Mrs R Smith (Town Promoter & Visitor Information Centre Manager)

141/21 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Hetherington (personal commitment), Cllr Knight (unwell) and Cllr Revd Piper (unwell)

142/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

143/21 MANSTON AIRPORT: CALL FOR COMMENTS 21/10/21

Councillors considered the Town Council's response to the Secretary of State's letter inviting comments on the recently published independent aviation assessor's draft report, the suite of responses to his first consultation and other representations deemed relevant for the purposes of the re-determination of the application. Details were available at:

<http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/document/TR020002-005841> for details. A report from Cllr Rusiecki, as requested at the Council meeting of 27th October 2021 was attached, along with a quote and related information from Alan Stratford and Associates Limited. A lengthy discussion ensued about the different merits of the proposed business plan and the actions that the town council could take.

Cllr Rusiecki left the meeting mid-discussion.

A motion from Cllr Green (seconded by Cllr Nixey) that Alan Stratford Associates be commissioned to undertake an independent review of the latest aviation assessor's review failed at the vote. Concerns were expressed about cost of ongoing independent reports.

RESOLUTION: To fully support the findings of the independent aviation assessors draft report. (For: Cllrs Albon, Ara, Austin, Crittenden, Green, Huxley, Makinson, Moore, Nixey, Wing. Against: Cllr L Piper. Abstain: Cllr Young)

144/21 EVENTS FUND

- (i) Councillors received a report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk, regarding the Christmas Lights Switch On event and New Year's Eve Firework's display. It had been resolved that this report and updated information be deferred from the Council meeting of the 27th October 2021.

RESOLUTIONS:

- a) **To cancel the classic Christmas Lights Switch-On event, due to concerns about social distancing at the 'switch on' part of the event; however where possible spread out festivities that don't lead to a 'switch on' will be arranged. The lights themselves will be turned on in the early morning.**
- b) **The New Years' Eve Fireworks display will take place from within the Harbour, subject to the necessary safety restrictions being met. The budget for this event to decrease to £4k.**
- (ii) Councillors considered two applications received for community funding via the Events Fund, these applications had been deferred from the Council meeting on the 27th October for consideration, due to decision at 241/21 having an impact of the balance of the Events Fund.

RESOLUTIONS:

- a) **To award POW! Thanet £1,000.00 from the Events Budget for the "POW! 2022 Festival: Reclaim & Reconnect – Ramsgate Day". Cllrs Albon & Green asked for their abstention to this vote to be recorded.**
- b) **To award Ramsgate Festival of Sound £2,000.00 from the Events Budget for "Ramsgate Through the Senses".**

145/21 CLIFFTOP SHELTERS

Councillors received a report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk, including a proposal from the Ramsgate Society about the fourteen clifftop shelters and considered if/how to proceed. A pre-meeting with the Ramsgate Society had taken place at 6pm (prior to the meeting) to discuss this proposal in further detail.

RESOLUTION: To approach TDC to find out if they would be receptive to an asset transfer to Ramsgate Town Council of these shelters.

146/21 FINANCE

Councillors received a report from Ms E Richford, Deputy Town Clerk, regarding bank signatories and consider the recommendations contained therein.

RESOLUTION: It was agreed that Cllrs Albon and Austin would become bank signatories.

147/21 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 remove the press and public from the meeting.

(i) **STAFFING MATTERS**

Councillors received and considered a confidential report from the Town Clerk regarding two staffing matters. It was recommended that this matter be considered confidentially due to the staffing information contained therein.

Cllrs L Piper and Young left the meeting.

RESOLUTIONS:

- a) **To congratulate the staff member on their new appointment.**
- b) **The Town Clerk to manage the proposal detailed within the enclosed report, within a proper appraisal process.**

148/21 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 2nd February 2022

DRAFT