



RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting

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

Date: Wednesday 3rd December 2025 at p.m.

Present: Councillors: Green (Chair), Albon, Austin, Hetherington and Makinson

Also in attendance:
Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO

295/25

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Crittenden (work), Driver (unwell) and Hudson (family matter). No apologies were received from Cllr Young.

296/25

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

297/25

PREVIOUS MINUTES

Members received the Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 10th October 2025 (minutes 173/25 to 185/25).

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

298/25

ACCOUNTS & BUDGETS

(i) The Committee received to note the Receipts and Payments to 28th November 2025.

RESOLUTION: This information was noted.

(ii) The Committee received the following reports relating to the draft 2026/2027 budget:

- An Excel working document of the budget with notes and references.
- A written report to accompany the Excel document noting specific variances and asking questions of the committee.
- A net summary of how the draft budget looks in Scribe.

Cllr Green provided an introduction to the budget and the work undertaken thus far.

It was noted that the budget and precept must be approved by

Council on 28th January 2026. There is currently a deficit in the budget, however, there are some figures from external sources still to be received (including the tax base). The Chair of the Council, Cllr Albon, noted that he would like to see less use of virements in the year; budgets should be adhered to.

RESOLUTION: The following updates to the draft budget will be made:

- (i) **The allotment rents should rise in line with the precept, and an explanation of the increase will be given to the tenants.** NB. Allotment tenants must be given 12 months' notice of rent increases.
- (ii) **Ward grants should be increased by £100 per year per member.**
- (iii) **The Private Security contract will be reviewed in February.**
- (iv) **The "Capital Projects & Asset Acquisition Budget" and "New Projects (incl. Legal Fees) Budget" should be amalgamated into one "New Projects & Asset Acquisition Budget).**
- (v) **The Climate Change Task Group budget will be increased to £7,500.**

299/25

CLIMATE CHANGE TASK GROUP

The Committee received the Climate Change Task Group Minutes from 26th November 2025.

RESOLUTION: The Minutes were noted.

The Committee received a written report from Mr D Williams, Marketing & Communications Officer, and considered the recommendation contained therein to cap expenditure on the Fruit Tree Initiative.

RESOLUTION: Expenditure of this initiative will be capped at £2,000 (180 trees).

300/25

PROJECT MANAGER (FIXED-TERM)

As resolved by the Council, the Committee considered the job description and person specification for the new role of Project Manager (Fixed Term). Recruitment will be undertaken as per the Recruitment Policy.

RESOLUTION: The Job Description and Person Specification were approved.

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DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 14th January 2026 at p.m.