



RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

Meeting: Finance and General Purposes Committee.

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

Date: Wednesday 27th April 2016

Present: Councillors: Campbell (Chairman), Connor, L. Fairbrass, J. Fairbrass, Falcon, Larkins, Leys, Rev Piper, Shonk and Stummer- Schmertzing.

Also in attendance: R. Styles - Town Clerk and Ms E. Richford - Asst Town Clerk.

253. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:
Cllr Martin – On other business.
Cllr. Young – On other business

254. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

255. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th January 2016 (minutes: 178 to 187) were agreed as a true record with amendment to Cllr Collins and Smith apologies to '*Long term sick leave*'.

Proposed by: Cllr Larkins.

Seconded by: Cllr Leys.

RESOLVED

256. ACCOUNTS YEAR END 2015-16 – 4th QUARTER

The report on the final Quarters accounts outturn was considered in detail, noted and received.

257. RTC BANKING + FINANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The report was noted and considered and it was decided to retain Unity trust bank as the Council's banker. Should Unity Bank's charges be raised again the matter will be looked at afresh.

CCLA: Ms Karen Carter gave a presentation to the meeting on diversifying RTC's cash holdings with CCLA. The meeting decided that the matter should be brought back to the next meeting, during which time the Clerk would have made enquiries with TDC's finance officer and possibly other district council finance officers on the suitability of diversifying RTC's cash reserves with CCLA.

258. WESTERN UNDERCLIFF

The Clerk described a proposal to replace the cafe/toilet at the Western under cliff with a prefabricated building. The meeting heard that a separate private sector initiative was being considered by TDC and therefore the RTC proposal will now be tabled but remain in the background as a possible default option; should the private sector proposal fail to complete.

The additional proposal for Beach huts at the Chine did not find favour and that part of the proposal will not be taken further.

259. RAMSGATE'S PARKS + GARDENS

The report was noted. RTC will not actively propose any scheme of future management, but will instead await TDC's response should the circumstances require it.

260. PR ACTIVE RAMSGATE

Sarah Whelband gave a presentation of continuing PR activity after the Active Ramsgate contract ends. At the conclusion of the presentation the meeting agreed to consider the matter under the confidential section of the meeting.

261. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT.

The Town Clerk reported on:

a) Possibly statutory powers of appeal in planning applications for Parish/Town Councils. *Noted.*

b) Local devolution of planning powers to Parish/Town Councils. *Noted. TDC is to be invited to explain how this would work in practice for Thanet and how in their view it could be implemented.*

c) St Laurence church yard management. *Noted. Awaiting the result of TDC's reference to their legal opinion on the status of all closed church yards in Ramsgate.*

The Chairman closed the meeting to the public and asked tm to leave while the following was consider:

262. STAFF AND CUSTOM HOUSE MATTERS

Custom house cleaning

PR Active Ramsgate

Groundwork contract

Mayor's PA hours of work

RESOLVED

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15 pm (the meeting having been extended under standing order 1.2).