



RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee

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

Date: Monday 13th June 2022 at 7.15pm

Present: Councillors; Green (Chair), Albon, Austin, Makinson, Moore and Wing

Also in attendance;
Miss L Fidler – Town Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer (Minutes)

118/22 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from:

- Cllr Ara – work commitment
- Cllr Crittenden – personal commitment
- Cllr Hetherington – work commitment
- Cllr Huxley – personal commitment
- Cllr Nixey – personal commitment
- Cllr L Piper – personal commitment
- Cllr S Piper – personal commitment
- Cllr G Rusiecki – personal commitment
- Cllr B Young – personal commitment

No apologies were received from Cllr Knight.

RESOLUTION: To approve the apologies received.

119/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest or dispensations recorded.

120/22 MINUTES

The minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 6th April 2022 (minutes 066/22 to 074/22) were received and considered.

RESOLUTION: The Minutes were approved as a true & accurate record of the meeting.

121/22 ALLOTMENTS

Councillors received a written report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO, and consider the quote contained therein for CCTV installation at the Chilton Lane East & West Allotments.

RESOLUTION: Cllr Green will investigate this matter further (need, what the cameras will pick up (day & night), security of the equipment, etc) and report back to the Committee before the matter is progressed.

122/22 BUDGET UPDATE

Councillors received a written report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO, regarding the staffing budget, utilities, and the 2023/2024 budget.

RESOLUTIONS:

- (i) **The report was noted.**
- (ii) **The surplus funds in the staffing salary budget can be considered for virement elsewhere if required in the year.**

123/22 CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP

Councillors considered the proposed changes to the Terms of Reference for the Climate Change Working Group, and a suggested amendment from Cllr Green; Cllr Green confirmed that he was not proposing a change to the purpose of the group, but an emphasis on the different opportunities.

RESOLUTION: It was confirmed that the Chair / Vice Chair can be any member of the group (not necessarily an elected member) and the proposed changes were approved.

124/22 THE CUSTOM HOUSE : CONDITION INSPECTION

Councillors received a quinquennial Condition Inspection of The Custom House and a supplementary report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO.

RESOLUTION: The report was noted.

125/22 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 public for the following items of business.

(ii) JUBILEE FOREST / ALLOTMENT LAND

Councillors received a written report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO and make a recommendation to the Council as to how to proceed. It is recommended that this matter be considered confidentially, due to the negotiations to be discussed. A professional report from Finns as to the value of the land was received on the day and Councillors were given time in the meeting to read this report.

RESOLUTION: To recommend to the full Council that an offer to purchase be made in respect of land at K804790 (land adjacent to the Chilton Lane West allotment site), at the price that the land was independently valued at. Owners of the other parcels of land adjacent to the Chilton Lane West allotments will also be identified, with the intention that they will be asked if they would be prepared to sell some of this land as well.

(iii) **RATES & RENT**

1) Councillors received a written report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO regarding business rates at Radford House & The Custom House and consider how to proceed. It was recommended that this matter be considered confidentially, due to the negotiations to be discussed.

RESOLUTION: The business rates for The Custom House will be paid. And it was recommended that the Chair and Town Clerk dispute the Business Rates bill for Radford House for the period when the property was used as a foodbank, as this was an emergency facility during the pandemic used to feed the local population.

2) Councillors received a written report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO, regarding rent payable on The Custom House and consider how to proceed. It was recommended that this matter be considered confidential due to the rent negotiation to be discussed.

RESOLUTION: A counter-proposal for rent in respect of The Custom House was agreed.

(iv) **MONTEFIORE WOODLAND**

Councillors received a written report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO, concerning the Montefiore Woodland. It was recommended that this matter be considered confidentially due to the quote contained therein.

RESOLUTION: This report was noted.

126/22 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 14th September 2022 at 7pm