



RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee

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

Date: Wednesday 6th October 2021 at 7pm

Present: Councillors; Green (Chair), Austin, Crittenden, Hetherington, Huxley, Knight, Makinson, Moore, Nixey, Rusiecki, L Piper & S Piper

Also in attendance;

Miss L Fidler – Town Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer

Miss E Richford – Deputy Town Clerk

Mr D Williams - Digital Communications and Marketing Officer

105/21 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Albon, Wing and Young (personal commitments) and Cllr Ara (work commitment).

RESOLUTION: To approve the apologies for absence.

106/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest or dispensations recorded.

107/21 MINUTES

The Minutes of the ordinary Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on the 23rd June 2021 were received and considered.

The Town Clerk provided a verbal update on; progress of the milk float modifications, the technology improvements within the Council Chamber, the Harbour Street Gate and the purchase of various items to enhance planting in the town.

RESOLUTIONS:

- (i) **Subject to a minor amendment to the minute numbering, the Minutes were approved as accurate and signed.**
- (ii) **The updates from the Town Clerk were noted.**

Cllr Rusiecki stepped out of the meeting.

108/21 GRANVILLE THEATRE

The following members of Kent Film Foundation attended to present information about their bid to acquire the Granville Theatre by asset transfer from the district council; Jan Dunn (Founder of Kent Film Foundation), Emlyn Gregory (Chair of the Trustees), Alan Jones and Jo Blair (Trustees). The history and intention of the project was explained, along with the breadth of experience of the members. Details of the business plan and how the project will be sustainable were also discussed. It was confirmed that the town

council's support for the bid would be considered at a subsequent meeting of the councillors.

RESOLUTION: To note this information.

Cllr Rusiecki returned to the meeting during this item.

109/21 ACCOUNTS – 2nd Quarter TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2021

Councillors received a written report from Miss E Richford, Deputy Town Clerk, detailing activities in the 2nd quarter of the current financial year. It was verbally reported that the council is now using a green supply for all gas and electricity, there have been no overspends in the year to date, and the external audit has been received back with no comments (to be noted at the next Council meeting).

RESOLUTION: This information was noted and Miss E Richford was congratulated on her work.

110/21 THE RAMSGATE FUND

Councillors received a written report from Miss E Richford, Deputy Town Clerk, regarding the criteria of The Ramsgate Fund and considered if any amendments should be recommended to the Council, in order to increase the number of applicants.

RECOMMENDATION TO FULL COUNCIL: That the following criteria should now apply:

- (i) **Project must be of benefit to the residents of Ramsgate.**
- (ii) **Should not be used to replace lost funding from Kent County Council or Thanet District Council**
- (iii) **Should normally be used for Capital items.**
- (iv) **Funds provided must be accounted for by the Town Council.**
- (v) **Invoices to be made available to the Town Council.**
- (vi) **Only one application to be submitted in any one financial year (1st April – 31st March).**

111/21 20 IS PLENTY

Councillors received a written report from Cllr Green (as resolved by Council on 30th June 2021) providing an update on the "20 in Plenty" proposal for Nethercourt Estate and considered the questions contained therein.

RESOLUTIONS:

- (i) **The Town Council will fund the outstanding £2,000 required for the Traffic Regulations Order that is required to take the proposal forward.**
Cllr L Piper asked for her abstention from this vote to be recorded.
- (ii) **£10k-£15k will be put aside each year (sum to be confirmed when the budget is set) for funding of future highways work. Use of the fund will be informed by the Highways Improvement Plan, highways data and appeals from local residents.**

112/21 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

- (i) 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: That the press and public be excluded for the following items of business.

(ii) HUMAN RESOURCES

Councillors received a written report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO, providing an update on various staffing matters and consider the recommendations contained therein. It was recommended that this matter be considered confidentially due to staffing matters to be discussed.

RESOLUTIONS:

- (i) The report was noted.**
- (ii) It was confirmed that Mr Williams should continue to line-manage the office apprentice for the duration of this apprenticeship and a suitable salary increment will be identified, to be back paid until 13th September 2021, once further advice has been sought and returned to the council for confirmation.**
- (iii) It was agreed and acknowledged that staff should only be contacted via work channels for matters relating to work (i.e. not asked to carry out work related activities via personal social media accounts). NB. With the caveat that contact can be made for emergencies relating to town council assets.**
- (iv) Cllrs Nixey and Green will assist the Town Clerk on officer's workload management queries.**

113/21 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

26th January 2022 at 7pm