



## **RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee**

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

**Date:** Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 7pm

**Present:** Councillors; Green (Chair), Austin, Dark, Hetherington, Hudson, Huxley, Moore, Nixey, Ovenden, and Young.

Also in attendance; Mr D Williams (Marketing and Communications Officer - Minutes).

#### **092/23 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Albon, Crittenden, Driver, Makinson and Wing (TDC Planning Committee Meeting).

**RESOLUTION: To approve the apologies received.**

No apologies were received from Councillor Ara.

#### **093/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest or dispensations recorded.

#### **094/23 POLICY & PROCEDURE**

The committee considered the following:

- i) Community Engagement Policy
- ii) Copyright & Usage Policy
- iii) Emergency Communications Procedure
- iv) Filming & Recording Policy
- v) Style & Formatting Guide

**RESOLUTION: The committee agreed the following:**

- i) To approve and adopt the Community Engagement Policy with the following additions:**
  - Two-way Communication f. Community Groups: The council will foster and encourage the excellent volunteering community within Ramsgate. A close community that is relied upon for communication on a ground level.
  - Roles and Responsibilities d. Councillors: Councillors use their own social media platforms to communicate with the local community, this should be clear and concise when undertaking community engagement.
  - Accessibility: The council will ensure that all communication is clear and the language used is simplified. The council will avoid using jargon and all communication will be in plain English. The community needs to be able to understand the main issues being expressed by the council.
- ii) To approve and adopt the Copyright & Usage Policy**

**iii) To approve and adopt the Emergency Communications Procedure with the following actions:**

- Thanet District Council receive all road closures in Thanet. Thanet District Council to be asked to send this information to Ramsgate Town Council to inform residents of disruption in the area.
- Councillor Austin added that the overview and scrutiny committees working party on better relationships between Thanet District Council and parish councils reported to the committee at the end of the last council term. The report is due to be considered by cabinet next month (July). Those that are in touch with members could point out that emergency situations which are not flagged up in that report are a situation when a good relationship would be required.
- Thanet District Council to be asked if the flagpole on the beach can be used to inform the public of polluted waters via sewage spillages.
- The chair of council to be asked to contact Southern Water in regard to the information received on the sewage spillages. For Southern Water to inform Ramsgate Town Council when they are happening, so it can be put on the website and the public can be informed. The council needs to know that they have responded and whether this information can be provided. The chair to report back to council with a response in relation to Ramsgate.

**iv) To approve and adopt the Filming & Recording Policy**

**v) To note the Style & Formatting Guide**

**095/23 TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The committee received the Terms of Reference for the Climate Change Task Group.

**RESOLUTION: The committee agreed the Terms of Reference for the Climate Change Task Group with the following amendments:**

- **The Chair of the Climate Change Task group to be a Councillor.**  
(Councillor Austin voted against, Councillors Hetherington and Young abstained.)
- **The third paragraph on the second page to be reworded to: “The Group will regularly report back to the Finance and General Purposes Committee either through the minutes of the group or through a report on a topic. The group will work to a plan of action for the financial year that will be revised at the group's first meeting each year and that is realistic, measurable and deliverable.”**

**096/23 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7pm.

The chair closed the meeting at 7:30pm.