



RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL

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

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

Date: Wednesday 15th May 2024 at 7pm

Present: Councillors: Green (Chair), Albon, Austin, Crittenden, Hetherington & Hudson

Also in attendance:

Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO

Mrs M Nash, Allotment Officer

105/24

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Makinson (TDC training), Cllr Driver (family commitment) Cllr Young (family commitment).

106/24

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

107/24

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 21st February 2024 (minutes 028/24 to 038/24) were received.

RESOLUTION: The Minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

108/24

ACCOUNTS

Members received and considered:

(i) Financial Comparison – Income and Expenditure to 31st March 2024.

(ii) Financial Statement – Cashbook to 31st March 2024.

(iii) Annual Return Figures - report from Advant Edge 2023-24.

(iv) Summary of budget (incl. balance carried forward) as of 1st April 2024.

RESOLUTION: The above information was accepted.

109/24

COMMITTEES

Members were asked to consider how well reduced membership of the committees is working, prior to Council confirming committee membership at a meeting on the 29th May 2024. There are currently 9 members on Finance & General Purposes, 7 members on Town Promotion, and 7 members on the Planning & Infrastructure Committee

RESOLUTION: To continue with the current reduced membership, which is working well.

110/24

ALLOTMENTS

(i) Members considered draft Allotment Rules for implementation.

RESOLUTION: An amendment from the word “bath” to “sanitary wear e.g. baths and sinks” was made and the Allotment Rules were approved.

(ii) Members considered a report from Ms M Nash, Allotment Officer, regarding tenants who are not residents of Ramsgate.

RESOLUTION: To give notice to the “legacy tenants” who live outside of Ramsgate effective from 30th September 2025, this rule to also apply to tenants who have moved out of Ramsgate during their contract.

111/24

INVESTMENT OPTIONS

To receive a report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO, regarding investment opportunities and consider how to proceed.

RESOLUTION: To use Unity Trust Bank and move £750,000 into the “Instant Access” savings account (2.77%) and £750,000 into a “6 Month Fixed Term Deposit Account” (4.25%).

112/24

FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

To note the newly issued National Association of Local Council Financial Regulations 2024. These have not yet been tailored for Ramsgate Town Council, once done this document will go to the Council for approval.

RESOLUTION: This document was noted.

113/24

CLIMATE CHANGE TASK GROUP

(i) To receive and note the Minutes of the Climate Change Task Group Meeting held on 28th February 2024.

(ii) To consider and approve the amended Terms of Reference for the Climate Change Task Group as drafted by Cllr Austin (current Group Chair) and Mr Williams (proper officer for the Group). A covering report is also included.

RESOLUTION: The Minutes were noted, and the Terms of Reference approved. Cllr Austin and the Marketing & Communications Officer were congratulated on all their hard work.

114/24

WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW

The local Government Boundary Commission has decided that the number of district councillors in Thanet should be 42 instead of the current 56. The Commission is now considering the Ward boundaries with the aim of each elected members having similar levels of constituents. Members were asked to consider how to answer the question "*The Commission is interested in views on which communities should be part of the same ward. What facilities do people share, such as parks, leisure centres or schools and shopping areas? What issues do neighbouring communities face that they have in common, such as high numbers of visitors or heavy traffic? Have there been new housing or commercial developments that have changed the focus of communities? And are there roads, rivers, railways, or other features that people believe form strong boundaries between neighbourhoods?*". The deadline for a response is the 27th May 2024. It was noted that this is not a review of the town council's elected members of boundaries.

Cllr Hudson left the meeting during this debate, due to another commitment, and did not vote on this matter.

RESOLUTION: District wards should not cross the town boundaries, which should be maintained. We would be happy to accept Pegwell in a Ramsgate ward.

115/24

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 press and public for the following item of business.

(ii) Members considered whether to approve the proposed Assignment of a Lease within the Custom House. It was recommended that this matter be considered confidentially due to the lease arrangements to be considered.

RESOLUTION: The Assignment was approved and the Superior Landlord's permission will now be sought. The incoming tenant will be informed that the Council makes no commitment to extending this Lease in the future.

116/24

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 3rd July 2024 at 7pm