



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 21st February 2024 at 7pm

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

Also in attendance:

Cllr Moore, as an observer

Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO

Mrs M Nash, Allotment Officer

Mrs M Morgan, Technician Manager (Projects & Community)

Mr D Williams, Marketing & Communications Officer

028/24 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Makinson (family commitment), Cllr Hudson (unwell), Cllr Driver (unwell) and Young (family commitment)

RESOLUTION: To approve the apologies for absence.

029/24 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

030/24 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on the 22nd November 2023 (minutes 206/23 to 213/23) were received.

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

031/24 **ACCOUNTS**

Members received the following:

(i) Financial Comparison – Income to 31st January 2024.

(ii) Financial Comparison – Expenditure to 31st January 2024.

(iii) Financial Summary – Cashbook to 31st January 2024.

RESOLUTION: This information was noted.

032/24

TECHNICIAN'S DEPOT

Members received a written report from Mrs M Morgan, Technician Manager (Projects & Community), regarding the proposed Technicians Depot, and considered the options detailed therein. Mrs Morgan was present to answer questions from the Members.

RESOLUTION: Pre-application advice for both options (a Cabin and a Portacabin) will be sought from Thanet District Council.

033/24

ALLOTMENTS

Members received and considered a written report from Mrs M Nash, Allotments Officer, and considered how to proceed with new facilities at the allotment sites. Mrs Nash was present to answer questions from the Members.

RESOLUTION: The quote of £10,400 (plus VAT) per year for accessible toilets at four allotment sites was approved.

034/22

INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Members received and considered a Draft Investment Strategy, to be implemented in advance of moving funds into a higher interest rate savings account.

RESOLUTION: To approve this strategy.

035/22

GRANTS

(i) Members received a summary of grants awarded in the 2023/2024 year.

RESOLUTION: This information was noted.

(ii) Members received a written report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO, and consider the various questions contained therein around the processing of grant applications. The "Grant Fund Criteria Feb 2024" was also included as part of this discussion.

RESOLUTIONS:

- a. **The remit of the Ramsgate Fund, Events Fund, and Community Ownership Fund was approved.**
- b. **The Ramsgate Fund and Events Fund budgets will be allocated quarterly (with 25% of the budget being available in each quarter of the financial year).**
- c. **The draft amendments in purple text on the "Policy for Awarding Grants" was approved, subject to the following changes at:**
 - 4.10 "Repeat applications for the same project will not be considered, except when the Council has invited the applicant to reconsider".**
 - 4.6 A grammatical error.**
 - 4.2 To be brought to the top of this section and it will be emphasised that the funds are frequently oversubscribed and no application is guaranteed.**

- d. To have four grant awarding Council meetings per year in February, May, August and November.
- e. To introduce a Grant Scrutiny Panel with the remit as detailed in the Policy for the Awarding of Grants. The Panel will have four members, to be nominated by the Council. All Councillors will be made aware of what the Panel will be considering.
- f. The Grant Assess Form was adopted for use by the Grant Scrutiny Panel, with the following additional questions:
 - Has this project been funded before?
 - Is this a project that is being delivered by professionals or volunteers?
- g. An amendment to the Grant Application Form was approved; to add in a question about previous funding from the Council.

036/24

CLIMATE CHANGE TASK GROUP

- (i) Members received the Minutes of the Climate Change Task Group Meeting held on 6th December 2023.
RESOLUTION: To note this information.
- (ii) Members received the Minutes of the Climate Change Task Group Meeting held on 31st January 2024.
RESOLUTION: To note this information.
- (ii) Members consider a draft “Procurement & Greener Working Policy”.
RESOLUTION: The policy was approved with no amendments.

037/24

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: That the press and public be excluded for the following items of business.
- (ii) Members received a verbal update from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO, regarding the Assignment of a Lease within The Customs House. It was recommended that this matter be considered confidentially due to the lease arrangements to be considered. The Clerk reported that there has been little progress since the

matter was last reported to the Council; the matter is currently with the Council's solicitor.

- (iii) Members received a report from Mr D Williams, Marketing & Communications Officer, regarding the Council's cyber security. A Cyber Risk Assessment was also enclosed. It was recommended that this matter be considered confidentially, as the council's online security will be discussed. Mr Williams was present and answered questions from the Members regarding online security. Mr Williams was congratulated on the safe systems that have been put in place.

RESOLUTION: To note this information.

038/24

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 22nd May 2024 at 7pm