



## **RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL**

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

**Venue:** The Custom House, Harbour Parade

**Date:** Wednesday 23 June 2021.

**Present:** Councillors; Austin, Green, Hetherington, Knight, Makinson, Nixey, L Piper, S Piper, and Young.

Also in attendance: Miss E Richford – Deputy Town Clerk (RFO) and D Williams – Digital Communications and Marketing Officer.

#### **038 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from: Cllrs Albon, Ara, Crittenden, Huxley, and Wing.

#### **039 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None declared.

#### **039i ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR FOR 2021-2022**

Proposed by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Nixey that;

Cllr Austin be appointed as Vice-Chair of the committee for 2021-2022.

**RESOLVED**

#### **040 MINUTES**

Proposed by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr S Piper that;

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2021 (minutes 165 to 173) are agreed as a true record.

**RESOLVED**

**041 MILK FLOATS AND POTENTIAL NEW WEEDING SYSTEM**

The committee considered the report of the Deputy Town Clerk and Senior Technician.

Proposed by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Hetherington that;

The senior Technician proceeds to modify both milk floats; replace seats with suspension seats @ £138.00 per seat = £552.00; seat belts @ £35.00 per seatbelt = £140.00; fit indicator stalk = £80.00; fit larger adjustable wing mirrors = £80.00; change wipers = £60.00; fit doors to small milk float = £500.00. All fitting to be completed in-house however, a garage may need to fit the doors.

Convert large milk float to a multi-purpose vehicle with mounted water container and pressure washer plus install pump for watering plants. All fitting completed in-house.

Ask TDC Port staff to give some training in use of milk floats.

Set to be aside £2,500.00 to ensure everything is covered.

**RESOLVED**

Proposed by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Nixey that;

The idea of a new weeding system to be visited at a later date.

**RESOLVED**

**042 COUNCIL CHAMBER IT – LIVE STREAMING / SCREEN**

The committee considered the report and presentation of the Digital Communications and Marketing Officer.

Proposed by Cllr Nixey and seconded by Cllr Knight that;

The Digital Communications and Marketing Officer to go ahead as per his recommendation but with a demonstration of live streaming from another authority Council / committee meetings first.

**RESOLVED**

Proposed by Cllr Nixey and seconded by Cllr Green that;

The Digital Communications and Marketing Officer to go ahead and replace the screen and projector in the Council Chamber with a large wall mounted television which can be used for presentations etc.

**RESOLVED**

**043 HARBOUR STREET GATE**

The committee considered the report of the Deputy Town Clerk (RFO).

Proposed by Cllr Nixey and seconded by Cllr Makinson that;

The project proceeds with a cap at £25K before coming back to committee to allow any further spend.

**RESOLVED**

Note; the possibility of bringing some colour into the design to be explored with costs and options brought back to a committee.

**044 WELCOME BACK RAMSGATE**

Cllr Green presented his report giving three options which were discussed;

1. Subsidise Town Centre parking
2. Support a weekly market, complementing the existing outlets.
3. Brighten up the Town Centre with enhanced plantings.

Proposed by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Hetherington that;

Ramsgate Town Council to support a weekly market with the Town Promoter continuing with her work on an option for a market in Charlotte Square which would be self-financing.

Proceed with the work to brighten up the Town Centre with enhanced plantings;

Purchase 20 Palms in 500L pots to replace ones broken or overgrown over winter, £600 x 20, £12,000.00.

20 Lamppost plant holders, £80.80 x 20, £1,618.00.

10 Railings plant holders, 156.80 x 10, £1,568.00.

40 Hanging baskets and brackets, £51.25 x 40, £2,048.00.

Plants for the above, £40 x110, £4,400.00.

**RESOLVED**

**045 ACCOUNTS – 1<sup>st</sup> QUARTER FY 2021-2022**

The committee considered the report of the Deputy Town Clerk (RFO).

Proposed by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Nixey that;

The report be noted. RESOLVED

The report included a request from the Montefiore Woodland Group to have a dead Sycamore cut down to six feet in height allowing for it to be utilised by wildlife and for a Turkey Oak to be removed from the woodland due to it leaning against a boundary wall and being considered a danger to pedestrians and traffic.

A quote had been provided which included traffic management for the work and all checks / permissions from TDC to be in place before any work will take place on the Turkey Oak.

Proposed by Cllr S Piper and seconded by Cllr Knight that;

The tree works to be carried out as per the report and quote with an English Oak planted within the woodland to replace the lost Turkey Oak.

RESOLVED

**046 DEPUTY TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

Nothing to report.

**The following agenda item to be taken as confidential under the terms of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960;**

Proposed by Cllr Green, seconded by Cllr Nixey and RESOLVED that;

Any public in attendance to leave the meeting.

**047 STAFF MATTERS**

The committee considered the confidential report of the Deputy Town Clerk (RFO).

Proposed by Cllr Hetherington and seconded by Cllr Nixey that;

Two Technicians to attend a 2 day strimming and brush cutting course. Cost £560.00.

RESOLVED

Proposed by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Austin that;

The previously agreed appointment of an apprentice to assist the Digital Communications and Marketing Officer to proceed; the wage to be the Living Wage appropriate for the age of the Apprentice and the Digital Communications and Marketing Officer to be the lead in the appointment of an Apprentice.

RESOLVED

Proposed by Cllr S Piper and seconded by Cllr Hetherington that;

The Town Promoter to join the RTC payroll; the job title to be 'Town Promoter / Visitor Information Centre Manager; working from home will continue with the VIC desk also available for her use.

RESOLVED

The meeting ended at 8.30 PM.