RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Promotion Committee

Venue: The Council Chamber, The Custom House, Harbour Parade, Ramsgate, CT11 8LP

Date: Wednesday 12th August, 2026 at 4pm

Present: Councillors: Ara, Crittenden (Chair), Huxley (Vice-Chair), Moore & Ovenden

Also in attendance:
Mrs R Smith (Town Centre and Tourism Manager - Minutes)
Ms G Dempsey (Visit Ramsgate Project Manager)

222/26 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr(s) Albon (TDC cabinet meeting), Nixey (personal commitment).
RESOLUTION: The apologies were received and approved.

223/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

224/26 MINUTES

i) The minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Town Promotion Committee held on 10 June 2026, minutes 152/26 to 165/26, were received and considered.
RESOLUTION: The minutes were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

ii) The minutes of the Visit Ramsgate Working Group meeting held on 17 July 2026 were received and considered.
RESOLUTION: The minutes were noted.

225/26 BUDGET

Members received a report from the Town Clerk and RFO providing an update on the Town Promotion Committee budgets as of 31 July 2026.
RESOLUTIONS:
i) The current budget position was noted.
ii) Members deferred further comment in lieu of the next item.

226/26 COUNCIL EVENTS

Members received a written report from the Town Centre & Tourism Manager providing an update on Ramsgate Day 2026, possible autumn events and Operation Dynamo 2027.
RESOLUTIONS:
i) Members noted the update on Ramsgate Day 2026.
ii) Members agreed that officers proceed with Operation Dynamo /

2027 event planning. Members approved a smaller, broader Ramsgate Royal Harbour Festival event for the years when fewer Little Ships would be attending.

iii) **Members approved that an additional autumn event be supported and that officers explore and organise an Oktoberfest event with local stakeholders, spending up to £10,000 from the Council Events Budget (Code 60).**

227/26 **DECORATIVE LIGHTING**

Members received a written report from the Town Centre & Tourism Manager regarding the Royal Parade arches decorative lighting project.
Members considered the available options:
Option A – warm white-only fittings
Option B – RGBW fittings, programmed to operate in warm white as the default setting
RESOLUTION: Members requested that the item be deferred and brought back to the Town Promotion Committee once officers have more accurate costs for installation of coloured lights, KCC permissions and heritage advice.

228/26 **CINQUE PORT CHAMPION**

Members received a written report from the Town Clerk and RFO regarding the Cinque Ports Champion role.
Members considered whether responsibility for Ramsgate's Cinque Ports Champion should sit with the Town Promotion Committee rather than the Mayor.
RESOLUTION: Members agreed that responsibility for Ramsgate's Cinque Ports Champion role should transfer to the Town Promotion Committee and that officers and/or the Town Promotion Chair or Mayor should attend meetings going forward.

229/26 **VISIT RAMSGATE REPORT**

Members received a written report from the Visit Ramsgate Project

Manager providing an update on Active Ramsgate and Visit Ramsgate projects.

Members discussed the HAF (Holidays, Activities and Food)

programme, partnership working, place activation and proposed Visit Ramsgate initiatives.

RESOLUTIONS:

(i) Members noted the report.

(ii) Members supported the proposals from section 5 of the report:

a) **Creating a welcoming message for visitors arriving at Ramsgate Station via a QR code on the raven, linking to a short recording with local tips about Ramsgate.**

b) **Painting the Harbour Parade display boards orange to match wayfinding signage.**

c) **Organise more 'satellite' activity days throughout the year and shorten Active Ramsgate Week to 5 days.**

Members noted that officers will investigate costs and report back

where any proposal exceeds £1,000, with lower-cost expenditure managed under existing delegated authority where appropriate.

230/26 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

(i) Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLUTION: Members resolved that, under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as extended by section 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 involved the likely disclosure of exempt information.

(ii) New Year's Eve Event Tender

Members received a confidential report from the Town Centre & Tourism Manager containing tendered quotes for the New Year's Eve event.

RESOLUTIONS:

(a) Members noted the outcome of the tender evaluation process.

(b) Members approved funding of up to £10,000 inclusive of VAT to be awarded to GB Carnival for delivery of the Ramsgate New Year's Eve event on 31 December 2026, subject to completion of the Council's usual funding agreement and due diligence checks.

(c) Authority was delegated to the Town Clerk and Town Centre & Tourism Manager to finalise the funding agreement and associated delivery arrangements.

Members also acknowledged that a drone display was a good idea and asked that the Town Centre and Tourism Manager write to Link CIC and advise them to consider applying to the community grants fund.

(iii) Update on "Big Bulbs"

Members received a confidential report from the Town Centre & Tourism Manager regarding the Blachere "Big Bulb" decorative lighting units and the supplier's proposed settlement.

RESOLUTION: Members agreed to accept the offer of £8,000 in full and final settlement and delegated authority to the Town Centre and Tourism Manager to contact Blachere to accept their offer.

231/26 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Town Promotion Committee will be held on Wednesday 21 October 2026 at 7pm.

The Chair closed the meeting at 6.47pm.