



RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Town Promotion Committee.

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

Date: 1 March 2017, 7pm

Present: Councillors; Brown, Campbell, Connor, J Fairbrass, L Fairbrass, Falcon, Kennedy, Martin (Chairman), Newman, L Piper, S Piper, Shonk, Stummer-Schmertzing and Young.

Councillor Kennedy joined the meeting during Item 4.

R. Styles – Town Clerk

D. Williams – Technical Officer

R. Smith – Ramsgate Town Team Chairman, Ramsgate Town Promoter, Active Ramsgate Representative

1 member of public was present.

221 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies.

222 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Newman declared an interest in Item 8 regarding the Netta Syrett Mayday Bardic Fete.

223 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2016 (minutes 166 to 173) were approved as a true record.

Proposed by: Councillor Campbell

Seconded by: Councillor Connor

RESOLVED

224 **ACTIVE RAMSGATE**

R. Smith gave an update to the committee on the Active Ramsgate project. It was detailed that C. Mvula, Tourism Consultant, has now taken over as chair of the Active Ramsgate group.

The Active Ramsgate group will be focussing on Kite Surfing as a new activity for the Active Ramsgate initiative.

T. Vickers of The Thanet Diving and Watersports Club has recently joined the Active Ramsgate team to help with the Kite Surfing activity. It was raised that T. Vickers had asked if there was the possibility of helping fund for the relevant kit for this activity.

The committee discussed various different aspects such as the council purchasing the equipment and then it being bought off the council by the Thanet Diving and Watersports Club.

The committee raised concern over the availability and coordination of the equipment and whether it was accessible through that business. Concerns were also raised

regarding the appropriate insurance and whether local residents and younger people would be discounted for the activity. It was suggested that possibly sponsorship could be sought to help youngsters.

The Town Clerk suggested helping T. Vickers with a business plan.

It was proposed that;

Ramsgate Town Council is not to fund, sponsor or loan money to private enterprises, therefore no action is to be taken.

Proposed by: Councillor Campbell **Seconded by:** Councillor Stummer-Schmertzling
RESOLVED

225 **VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE UPDATE**

The committee received and noted the report from the Technical Officer on the statistics of the Visitor Information Centre.

226 **RAMSGATE TOWN TEAM**

The committee noted the report by R. Smith.

R. Smith informed the committee that the wayfinding funds have now been released on 1st March 2017 and that work can start on planning signs around the town.

R. Smith detailed within the report of a Community Day on the 3rd May 2017. The Town Team are working with the Friends of Ramsgate Seafront and East Kent College to help with volunteers, this will allow students to get involved within the local community.

It was noted by the committee that Santa at the Christmas Light Switch On did not have regular refreshments, it was suggested that for this year's event that this would be accommodated for Santa.

Councillor S. Piper substituted for Councillor L. Fairbrass at the community meeting and met the four new PCSO's. Councillor S. Piper updated the committee regarding the issue of parking in Harbour Street, the automated bollard was raised at the community meeting. The Fire Service are willing to come to Ramsgate and help give exact dimensions for the bollard, it was advised that it should fit the widest fire engine plus two feet.

The Town Clerk visited Brighton for a Coastal Communities Meeting and it highlighted various aspects that need to be considered in the town centre, such as long vehicles, drains and whether it is a pedestrian zone or not.

The Town Clerk told the committee that a traffic plan would be created and sent to Thanet District Council and the Transport Committee regarding the town centre, this would go to councillors beforehand for amendments, suggestions and approval.

It was proposed that;

The Town Clerk is to approach Thanet District Council regarding the enforcement in the town centre and whether it is something they would be willing for Ramsgate Town Council to do.

Proposed by: Councillor Campbell **Seconded by:** Councillor S. Piper

RESOLVED

227 **RAMSGATE TOWN WEBSITE & COMMUNITY AD UPDATE**

The committee received and noted the report from the Technical Officer on the statistics of the Ramsgate Town Website.

228 **RAMSGATE TOWN PROMOTER**

The Town Promoter gave an update on activities since the last meeting.

The Town Promoter reported on the Late Night Shopping events within the town and reported that they were unsuccessful. A similar event works in Sandwich however it is solely funded by Discovery Park. The Lantern Parade was successful with over 80 people taking part.

It was noted that the Ramsgate Illuminations were a success, however it is the intention of the Town Promoter to get more boats involved for turning on their lights for the 1st December, rather than the third week.

It was suggested by the Town Promoter that the price for advertising on the Visit Ramsgate website would be £45 per year per business.

It was detailed that if a website were to branch off from the newly upgraded Visit Thanet website then only accredited businesses would be available; Councillor Campbell did not support this aspect, and suggested that smaller businesses who are not accredited should be given a chance to start, which will be viable on our independent Visit Ramsgate website. The Town Promoter told the committee that the businesses would need their own website to be promoted, and the Visit Ramsgate website would be up and running by April.

Councillor Kennedy raised the advent box trail and suggested that this could be incorporated with the Christmas door decoration event within Ramsgate, the Town Promoter would need to speak to N. Page, who is organising the event for this year.

Councillor S. Piper stated that the problems occurring in Charlotte Court and any that arise should be monitored for future. Councillor Campbell informed the committee that Porchlight left Ramsgate but are now returning to the area. Councillor L. Fairbrass informed the committee that GloGen Church have received funding and will be putting a support group back into Ramsgate, which should help with the problems.

Councillor L. Fairbrass also explained that the Margate Task Force will be pushed over to Ramsgate to help with the deprived areas. The previous sweeps of Harbour Street will be a regular occurrence and will continue within the town.

Councillor Campbell informed the committee of the anti-social behaviour toolkit, which states a community trigger of three or more incidents should start a review/investigation.

It was proposed that;

Councillor Campbell is to send the anti-social toolkit to the Technical Officer to put on website to inform public and residents of the process.

Proposed by: Councillor L. Piper **Seconded by:** Councillor Young

RESOLVED

The report detailed the information on the Netta Syrett Mayday Bardic Fete event, the organisers have been invited to present and give more information at the next Amenities Meeting, as previously agreed on the 22nd February 2017.

229 **TOWN CLERKS REPORT**

The committee received a report from the Town Clerk on representation for the Council.

The Town Clerk stated that some service devolution discussions may take place with TDC, irrespective of the EK4 proposal within weeks or at least within the next 3 months. A training session for all Councillors, will be held in late March and will be delivered by the Kent Association of Local Councils to inform councillors of the issues, law and best practice regarding service devolution and the transfer of assets. The Town Clerk is to check dates with the councillors and arrange a time that is suitable for the majority of members.

The Town Clerk outlined in the report three options for handling the external affairs of the council. When conducting negotiations or attending meetings with outside bodies; a team consisting of the Lead Councillor for liaison and external affairs, the Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Town Clerk, would investigate any proposal made to the Council by an outside body, negotiate where necessary and then report back to the Council. The Council would always have the final say on any agreement or service contract and could also instruct the negotiating team where necessary and appropriate. The Mayor in this option (3) would not be required to cede any powers which he might otherwise have to accept if options (1) and (2) were adopted.

The committee discussed the three options and stated that the responsibility of one councillor attending meetings would be too much, and therefore agreed that a team made up of the Town Clerk, Chairman of Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Liaison Councillor would attend meetings regarding service devolution and any other negotiations with outside bodies. The arrangement would remain in place until the Annual Town Council meeting in May, when it would be reviewed. It was also proposed that Councillor S. Piper would be the Liaison Councillor for external matters only until the council meeting in May.

Proposed by: Councillor L. Fairbrass

Seconded by: Councillor J. Fairbrass

RESOLVED

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm