

## RAMSEY TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF RAMSEY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

held on Thursday 14 September 2023 at 7:15pm Ramsey Town Council 7 Church Green, Ramsey

**Present:** - Councillors J Aubin, R Brereton (Mayor), J Bufton, J Clarke, S Corney, B Davidson, V Fendley, J Howe, A Lavender, C Maskell, J Palmer, G Rayment, N Soer. **In Attendance:** - L Renfree, Town Clerk.

Mayor Cllr Brereton apologised for the late start to the meeting due to a pre-meeting with Inspector Norden. Meeting opened at 7:15pm

146. **Apologies for Absence** – Cllrs M Clarke, A Costello, P Taylor, E Welsh.
147. **To Receive Declarations of Interest** -  
Councillor Brereton and Councillor Corney declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No.150, Planning Applications, as Members of the District Council's Development Management Panel and reserved the right to change their views when presented with applications at the Panel. Cllr Brereton, Fendley and Rayment declared an interest in minute No. 152 item 6a.
148. **Public Participation** There were three members of the public present, two spoke in support of planning application 23/01533/FUL and one member of the public asked Council information on Highways and CIL monies.
149. **Minutes of the last Meeting to be Approved** – Minutes of 24th August 2023 were **APPROVED** 12 For and 2 Abstained. The minutes were duly signed.
150. **Planning Applications for Consideration**  
**1.1 23/01573/HHFUL** Erection of single storey rear extension and covered porch to the side. 57 Whytefield Roads Ramsey Huntingdon PE26 1AH. **APPROVED** Unanimously to recommend the District Council approve the application. There were no neighbouring objections, and it was felt it was in-keeping with the area.  
**1.2 23/015333/FUL** Subdivision of existing dwelling (Use Class C3) to create a childcare nursery (Use Class E (f)), including single storey extension. 72A Great Whyte Ramsey Huntingdon PE26 1HU **APPROVED** Unanimously for the District Council to approve this application. Council took into consideration both the comment from the neighbour and from the County Council and felt the building was necessary for the need of childcare which is growing in our community.
151. **Finance Items**  
a) Bank reconciliation – noted  
b) Financial Budget comparison to 31/08/23 – noted  
c) BACS/Cheque list to be approved- This would in future be referred to as Expenditure Transactions. – noted.  
d) Expenditure Transactions – **APPROVED** Unanimously. In future Council would like to see actual expenditure and not year to date as well.
152. **Amenities, Highways and Leisure Items**  
a) Skate Park Update – Cllr Fendley updated Councillors on the progress of the skate park and with the chosen company, Canvas.  
b) Mortuary Chapel Tiles – The Clerk updated Council that reclaimed tiles had been sourced by the Friends of the Mortuary Chapel and they had been laid in the new toilet area. The Clerk was waiting for an invoice so payment could be transferred.
153. **Civic Hub Update**  
Cllr Corney gave Council an update on the progress of the Hub. The lift was now in and signed off, blinds were in, internal fire doors fitted and the painter was finishing. Back gates to be completed by the end of September. A snagging list would be compiled week commencing 18<sup>th</sup> September.

#### 154. Working Party Recommendations

##### **Civic Hub Working Party Recommendations**

- a) To Recommend accepting the quote to build a storage area at the new Civic Hub. This will give the much-needed storage for the support worker tools and it will be a community asset such as storing a water bowser for Ramsey in bloom. Quote ex Vat £13,750. **Council voted Against the recommendation unanimously.** Cllr Corney was asked to bring a new quote and idea to the next working Party on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023.
- b) To Recommend the following opening hours for the Civic Hub with a view to reviewing the hours after six months of opening. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9:30am-4pm to allow the Clerk 30 minutes either side for start up and close down. Closed on a Wednesday for walk ins. The Junior Admin Clerk will be in to field calls. **Council agreed unanimously to the opening hours.**
- c) To Recommend the Clerk to arrange a licence agreement for the separate office for an annual fee of £6,000 for a 12-month period initially. After some discussion about potential users **Council agreed unanimously to the annual fee of £6,000 for 12 months.**
- d) To Recommend the application process for the separate office will be through the website and social media. **Council agreed unanimously with the addition of adding local publications.**
- e) To Recommend rental prices for the Board room will be £12 per hour for community groups and £15 per hour for commercial businesses. This is in line with the rental of other rooms in the surrounding area. **Council agreed to the prices with a caveat of reviewing the costs in six months' time.**
- f) To Recommend NOT applying for a music and alcohol licence. **Council agreed unanimously NOT to apply for the music and alcohol licence.**
- g) To Recommend to fly the Union flag from the Civic Hub on the set days and in between fly a Ramsey Town Council Flag. **Council agreed to the recommendation.**  
**Other items discussed were noted.**

##### **Finance Working Party**

- a) To Recommend deferring the Hunts Volunteer grant until the October meeting. **Council agreed to defer.**
- b) To Recommend awarding the £500 grant for the Abbey College for the development of a well-being space for the students. **Council agreed to donate the £500 grant.**
- c) To Recommend deferring the Ramsey Heights grant application until the Clerk has sought more information. **Council agreed to the deferment.**
- d) To Recommend paying the Public Liability for the Friends of the Mortuary Chapel for this year and for subsequent years for them to cover the cost. The cost would come from the Cemetery budget. **Council agreed to the recommendation.**
- e) The Recommendation for the Paying Agent – Clerk to bring to the next meeting.
- f) The Recommendation to amend the Financial Regulations – Clerk to bring to the next meeting. Council noted the other items discussed at the Finance Working Party.

#### 155. **Town Mayor's and Clerk's Correspondence.**

**Clerks Update:** The Clerk tabled an updated spreadsheet of the work and projects currently in progress. The a) Clerk informed Council of the Rural Crime Action Week on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023 at the Harvest Barn PE7 3DR. The Clerk tabled a letter from Cambridgeshire County Council Weed Spraying Policy.

**The Mayor's Announcements:** Cllr Brereton gave Council an update of the project on Booth's Hill where we quotes were expected. There was an update on the King George V gates which will be completed by the end of 15<sup>th</sup> September. The Phone Box on Little Whyte has been completed by Ramshed and Chris Day had agreed to fit the defibrillator voluntarily.

b) Council noted the thanks from Andrew Hodgson on behalf of RSMVT for the concrete table tennis table and the football goals.

#### 156. **Attendance at Meetings and Organisations.**

Cllr Brereton (Mayor) attended a Flood Action meeting, Ramsey Abbey Safety Meeting and met with Ramsey in Bloom.

Cllr Fendley attended the Police Engagement meeting, attended RAF Wyton's reception and met with Fay Downer from the District Council for the Digital Boards.

**157. District and County Councillor Reports**

Cllr J Clarke outlined a funding stream that was now available for small business to apply to at District Council.

Cllr S Corney talked on behalf of the County Council about the weeds not being sprayed and encouraged Councillors to sign the petition on the County Council website.

**158. Meeting Dates**

The next meeting of Ramsey Town Council (Planning) would take place on 28<sup>th</sup> September 7pm.

Town Mayor \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_