

RAMSEY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF RAMSEY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING held on Thursday 09 May 2024 at 7:00pm Ramsey Town Council 11 Great Whyte, Ramsey

Present: Cllrs Aubin, Brereton, Bufton, M Clarke, J Clarke, Corney, Costello, Davidson, Fendley (Mayor), Knight, Lavender, Maskell, Rayment, Soer, Taylor & Welsh.

In attendance: L Renfree Town Clerk.

Due to the large number of residents attending the meeting Cllr Brereton read out a short statement ahead of the meeting outlining the evening's protocol.

01 - Election of the Town Mayor for 2024/25: Cllr Brereton Cllr Fendley was nominated from the floor, there were no other nominations. Council voted **UNANIMOUSLY** for Cllr Fendley to be elected Mayor of Ramsey for 2024/25.

Cllr Fendley took the Chair and thanked Cllr Brereton for his service as Mayor since May 2022 and awarded Cllr Brereton his Past Mayor Badge.

02 – Election of the Deputy Town Mayor for 2024/25: Cllr Corney was nominated from the floor and there were no other nominations. Council voted **UNANIMOUSLY** for Cllr Corney to be elected Deputy Mayor of Ramsey 2024/25.

Cllr Fendley also read a statement on how the proceedings would take place, this included extending the Public Participation section by ten minutes (Standing Order 3f)

03 – Apologies for Absence: Cllr Palmer.

04 - To Receive Declarations of Interest: Cllrs Brereton and Corney both declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No.7, 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 Fendley declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 7 due to being involved with the Skate Park.

05 – Public Participation: There was a large attendance of public at the meeting. The room reached capacity and those who were unable to join the meeting room were asked to leave their name and contact details. Fourteen residents spoke to the Council. Each resident that spoke was given a maximum of three minutes speaking time. (Standing Orders 3g)

The subject areas were;

1- the introduction of the 20mph zone for Ramsey and Bury. There was challenge on the process including timelines of the poll on social media by Ramsey Town Council, quoting Local Government Association guidelines. There was challenge to the lack of visibility of the Cambridgeshire County Council consultation.

2 – The Council was thanked for the introduction of the 20mph zone, making the roads safer for the children.

3- If the Council could look into the possibility of a bin for teracycle so blister packs can be kept out of general waste.

4 – After looking at crash sites for injuries the resident could only see five accidents involving children across the last five years. The accident at the junction of Abbey Road and

Hollow Lane involved a car and no child pedestrian. They would heavily support 20mph zones around the schools but having driven from Upwood to the Ramsey sign it is increasing the length of traffic.

5 – It was felt the 20mph was disproportionate and to have a blanket 20mph zone to the outreaches of the community. Quoted the Hunts Post article with comment from the Police. A road survey in a 30mph drivers drive 27mph and the Police say they can't enforce it. It is undemocratic.

6- 20mph speed limit was inappropriate and should be in zones around the schools.

7- The issue is with placement; we broadly agree with 20mph zones in and around the school area but not the total placement where we have been given.

8 – It is almost impossible to get your car out of second gear when going up Bury Hill. The potholes are worsening, and the pavements are in poor condition. Yes, to having 20mph around the schools but not everywhere.

9- Felt there was a lack of visibility of the consultation, felt that pollution will increase, pot-holes should be fixed first. How ridiculous that the painting on the road has been painted over potholes. Thought accidents will increase because of cars going slower and dangerous overtaking will take place.

10- Worried about the number of large lorries that come on the High Street to Great Whyte. The infrastructure is not strong enough and there should be a 7.5 tonne weight limit put on it, lorries should be kept out of town.

11- Parking in town is an issue, parking causes issues especially when parking on both sides of the road. Perhaps the Council should think about double red lines.

12 – People attempting to keep at the 20mph speed limit are being tailgated, it causes frustration and will cause accidents. Referred to an article from the Daily Mail dated 5th May where cyclists are not bound by 20mph speed limits.

13 – An email from local highways on 23rd April saying the Welsh Government had withdrawn the 20mph speed limit. The safety of pedestrians should use the pavements. Didn't feel the public consultation was done, the public have not been approached. There was no notification of speed limits, green bins etc.

14 – Question was asked has the order been signed?

The Mayor Cllr Fendley then asked Ramsey Town Councillors if they wanted clarification.

Cllr Corney spoke about item 14b on the agenda which was an email response from Cambridgeshire County Council on the validity of the consultation they had undertaken in light of the Hunts Post article on the Huntingdon Town 20mph inaccuracies. The email response tabled, outlined the fact a different system was used for Ramsey and the process used by Cambridgeshire County council was accurate.

Cllr Corney spoke about the 7.5 tonne weight limit on Great Whyte, stating it had been applied for and turned down in the past, but the Clerk has been asked to apply again.

Cllr Corney outlined that in January at a County Council meeting himself and Cllr Costello attended the councillors asked for an extra £20 million to fix the potholes in Cambridgeshire. This was turned down by the ruling administration. Cllr Corney then told the room that the Chair and Vice-Chair of Cambridgeshire County Council were visiting Ramsey Heights to look at the large dip in the road.

Cllr Costello then spoke and outlined that the responsibilities for pavements and potholes lay with Cambridgeshire County Council. Cllr Costello explained that the money for the 20mph scheme across Cambridgeshire came from a separate pot of money from Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA), they had received £800,000 from the Department for Transport. The road safety accident that had occurred previously on the High Street had been brought to Cllr Costello's attention from a local doctor who had attended the scene. Cllr

Costello also explained that it wasn't just the main schools but also the pre schools and after school clubs that should be considered for safety. It also covers the play areas on Millfields, New Road and King George V. It was also explained that the advantages of the 40mph zone is welcomed as it is helping workers walk safely to the Highlode Industrial Estate. Cllr Costello went on to explain that even though the zones around schools were wanted it would be more complicated and costly from going to 20-30-20-30mph around our roads.

Cllr Fendley then started to explain about the timelines of the Ramsey Town Council poll but kept being loudly interrupted by one of the residents. As per Standing Order 2a Cllr Fendley asked the resident to allow her to complete her information without interruption. The resident continued to interrupt Cllr Fendley. Cllr Fendley then enacted 2b of the Standing Orders asking for the resident to be removed. Following this request the meeting became very rowdy and Cllr Fendley then enacted 2c of Standing Orders and temporarily closed the meeting.

Meeting temporarily adjourned 7:50pm – Most of the residents left the meeting.

Meeting reopened 7:55pm

6 – Minutes of the Last Meeting to be Approved: Council voted 15 For and 1 Abstention to agree the minutes from 25 April 2024.

7 – Planning Applications for Consideration: 1.1 24/0550/REM Approval of reserved matters (layout, scale, landscaping and appearance) for a mixed-use development including industrial units (Use Class B2/B8), commercial, business and service. **Cllr Brereton proposed acceptance seconded by Cllr Corney. Cllr J Clarke proposed an amendment seconded by Cllr M Clarke to advise no trees on the landscaping but shrubs. This amendment was voted on 8 For, 5 Against, 3 Abstentions. This then became the substantive vote, Ramsey Town Council voted 13 For, 1 Against & 2 Abstention in Favour** of the District Council approving the reserved matters asking that the landscaping does not include trees but has shrubs and the LLFA approved the application.

8 – Planning Other Business: Consultation response on Woodland creation, Harpers, Upwood Road. Ramsey Town Council voted **UNANIMOUSLY** for the Clerk to respond to the Woodland Creation, they felt it would enhance the area and help with the biodiversity of the area.

20:11 Cllr S Corney left the meeting.

9 – End of Year Accounts & Annual Governance Statement: The RFO presented Council the Annual Governance Statement which the Finance Working Party recommended Approval. Ramsey Town Council voted **UNANIMOUSLY** in favour of **APPROVAL** of the Annual Governance Statement.

The RFO presented the Year End Accounts to Ramsey Town Council which the finance Working Party recommended Approval. Ramsey Town Council voted **UNANIMOUSLY** for the Year End Accounts to be **APPROVED**.

10 – Review of the Council's Policies, Procedures, Regulations and Delegated Powers: Prior to the meeting Ramsey Town Council was asked to read and suggest any amendments to the current policies. Ramsey Town Council voted **UNANIMOUSLY** to **APPROVE** the Policies, Procedures, Regulations and Delegated Powers without amendments.

11 – Financial Matters:

- a) Financial summary – Cash Book tabled to 31 March 2024 and 30 April 2024. **Noted**
- b) Expenditure Transactions – tabled for approval. Ramsey Town Council voted **UNANIMOUSLY** to **APPROVE** the expenditure transactions.

Finance Working Party Recommendations: to offer to buy and ensure the existing flower barrels from Ramsey in Bloom saving them £527 per annum and to make our annual donation of £660. Ramsey Town council voted **UNANIMOUSLY** to **APPROVE** the recommendation.

12 – Town Council Representatives on External Organisations:

Bury & Traffic Liaison – Cllr Brereton

Cambridgeshire Policing Liaison – Cllr Rayment

Health & Safety Officer – Cllr Fendley

Hunts Volunteer Centre (Ramsey) Cllr Davidson

Mawdsley Trust – Cllr Taylor, Cllr Rayment

Middle Level Navigation Advisory Committee – Steve Corney

Parish Forum – The Mayor

Pavilion Management Committee – Cllr Aubin & Cllr Soer

Ramsey Heritage Partnership – Cllr Knight

Ramsey Welfare Charities (4 years) – Alan Johnson (2025) Cllr Taylor (2024) Cllr Rayment (2026)

Red Tile Wind Farm Trust – Cllr Costello

Spinning Trust – Cllr Rayment

Youth Services Liaison - Cllr Aubin

13 – Review of Working Party Memberships: The Clerk tabled the Working Parties; the additions were adding Cllr Taylor to Neighbourhood Plan.

Council was asked to agree to the formation of a Communication Working Party – Proposed Cllr Rayment and Seconded Cllr Brereton Council **APPROVED** 12 For and 3 Abstentions.

14 - Amenities, Highways, Leisure and Cemetery Items –

- a) D-Day Events June 6th – The Clerk outlined the events planned for the day. Invitations to the community are going out including the Councillors. – **Noted**
- b) 20mph Feedback – The Clerk tabled the email response from Cambridgeshire County Council on the validity of the Ramsey Consultation.
- c) Youth Shelter – The Clerk informed the Council of the resident’s concern with the children playing on the shelter whilst under construction and attempted vandalism. The Clerk has written to the schools and the Mayor has an invitation to speak to the children. Council has also sent out a note of support on the Town Council Facebook.
- d) Slade Dyke – The Clerk gave an update on Slade Dyke, a resident’s fence has collapsed, and a concrete post has been thrown in as well as an abandoned Tesco trolley. The Council’s support worker is away for two weeks but the water is at its lowest level for months. A new bin is being installed at the end by the hedge for public use.

15 – Town Mayor’s and Clerk’s Correspondence –

- a) Great Whyte Improvement Scheme - This item was removed as no formal feedback was required.

- b) Online Communication - This item was removed due to the formation of the Communication Working Party.
- c) The Clerk tabled the ongoing projects – Noted.

16 – Attendance at Meetings or Organisations –

Cllr Fendley and Cllr Brereton attended the V E Day Memorial.

Cllrs Aubin, Clarke, Fendley & Knight met with Michelle Sacks CEO of Huntingdonshire District Council.

Cllr Knight advised the Council that the Engagement document with the Council and Friends of the Mortuary Chapel had been agreed and signed, the next meeting with them for the Statement of Works was 22nd May.

Date of the Next Meeting – Thursday 23 May (Planning), 13 June Full Council Meeting (this will be preceded at 6:30pm with the council photo)

Town Mayor _____ Date _____