

RAMSEY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF RAMSEY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING **held on Thursday 12 September 2024 at 7:00pm** **Ramsey Town Council 11 Great Whyte, Ramsey**

Present: Cllrs J Aubin, R Brereton, J Bufton, J Clarke, M Clarke, S Corney (Deputy Mayor), A Costello, B Davidson, V Fendley (Mayor), L Knight, J Palmer, G Rayment, N Soer, P Taylor. **In attendance:** L Renfree Town Clerk.

55 – Apologies for Absence: Cllrs A Lavender, C Maskell, and E Welsh.

56 - To Receive Declarations of Interest: Cllrs R Brereton, S Corney and J Clarke all declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No.59, 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. S Corney declared a non-pecuniary interest on minute 63 a under Amenities, Highways and Leisure.

57 – Public Participation:

There were two members of the public present, one observing, and one asked about the car wash area on Stocking Fen Road. Council instructed the Clerk to write to the owners of the site.

58 – Minutes of the Last Meeting to be Approved: Council voted **10 FOR** and 4 **ABSTENSIONS** to **APPROVE** the minutes of 8th August 2024 as a correct record.

59 – Planning Applications for Consideration:

1.1 24/01543/HHFUL Erection of single storey rear extension, internal alterations and demolition of conservatory – 1 Hollow Lane, Ramsey – Council voted **UNANIMOUSLY** for the District Council to **APPROVE** the application.

1.2 24/01072/HHFUL Further information received on this previous application – Erection of single storey rear extension and erection of 1.2m fence – 10 South Walk, Ramsey. – Council voted **13 FOR** and **1 ABSTENTION** for the District Council to **APPROVE** the application providing the detail of the fence being lowered to 1.2 meters which was not clear in the plans.

60. Finance Items:

a) Financial Summary – Cash book to 31/08/24 – **Noted**

b) Expenditure Transactions – Council voted **UNANIMOUSLY to APPROVE** the transactions.

61. Amenities, Cemeteries, Highways and Leisure Items:

a) SID Update- The Clerk fed back that the data had not been collected that month and asked for Councillors support in changing the batteries.

62. Equal Opportunities and Diversity Policy:

To agree the policy previously circulated – Council voted **UNANIMOUSLY** to adopted the Equal Opportunities & Diversity Policy.

63. Working Parties Recommendations:

Communications Working Party:

a) Recommendation to approve the final draft of the newsletter – Council agreed **UNANIMOUSLY to APPROVE** the final draft to go to print. Council thanked the Clerk and Elizabeth George student volunteer for the work that had gone into the newsletter.

Finance/Employment Working Party:

h) Recommendation to fund the newsletter £1,260 for 8,000 copies at Parrot Print – Council voted **13 FOR** and **1 Abstention** to fund the newsletter £1,260.

- a) Recommendation to offer a six-month contract to cover Thursday and Friday Reception – Council voted **UNANIMOUSLY** to **APPROVE** a six-month contract to cover Reception on a Thursday and Friday.
- b) Recommend starting the process of recruiting a Full Time Deputy Clerk – Council voted **UNANIMOUSLY** to **APPROVE** to start the process of recruiting a Full Time Deputy Clerk with a potential start date in January 2025.
- c) Recommendation to start the process of recruiting a Full Time Grounds Maintenance Person – Council voted **13 FOR** and **1 ABSTENTION** to start the process of recruiting a Full Time Grounds Maintenance Person – start date to be confirmed.
- d) Recommendation to have a grant application window, twice a year – Council voted **UNANIMOUSLY** to **APPROVE** two grant application windows – end of March and September.
- e) Recommendation £400 Grant application from Ramsey and District Day Centre (Ramsey Senior Lunch Club) – Council voted **UNANIMOUSLY** to **APPROVE** the grant application.
- f) Recommendation £400 Grant application for Ramsey Forty Foot Flyers to provide an artificial Christmas Tree and lights- Council voted **UNANIMOUSLY** to **APPROVE** the grant application.
- g) Recommendation to stop the Terracycle Trial – Council after a rigorous debate voted **11 FOR 2 AGAINST** and **1 ABSTENTION** to stop the trial with immediate effect. The Clerk was asked to write to both Huntingdonshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council to ask what support they can give for the recycling of blister packs.

Amenities, Highways and Leisure Working Party:

- a) Recommendation that the Ramsey Market stays as is for the foreseeable future and to ask Haydn Edwards (current stall holder) to open and close the market – Council voted **UNANIMOUSLY** to **APPROVE** to keep the market as is and to ask Mr Edwards to open and close the market for the foreseeable future.
- b) Recommendation to accept the quote £3,200 to refurbish the three Millenium signs in Ramsey – Council voted **UNANIMOUSLY** to **APPROVE** the quote and get the work completed.
- c) Recommendation to buy a Speed Indicator Device for Ramsey Mereside and to buy a Speed Indicator Device to be flexible for Hot Spots – Council voted **13 FOR** and **1 AGAINST** to buy a Speed Indicator Device for Mereside and to buy one for Hot Spots.
- d) Recommendation to accept the Tree Survey quote of £1,850 – Council voted **12 FOR and 1 AGAINST** to **APPROVE** the quote and get the survey completed.

64. Nomination for the Freedom of the Town:

Recommendation to accept the nomination previously circulated for the Freedom of the Town – Council voted **13 FOR and 1ABSTENTION** to **APPROVE** the nomination, the Mayor would now approach the nominee and if agreed the Freedom will be given at the Civic Service on October 13th.

65. Town Mayor’s and Clerk’s correspondence:

- a) Middle Level email regarding surface water drainage at Ramsey Business Park development – The Clerk updated Council on the email sent and response received. Response was that they hope to have an agreement very soon. Cllr Brereton read a response from the Internal Drainage Board that they had sent the developer the requirements and not heard back from them.
- b) Ongoing work updated tabled - **Noted**

66. Attendances at Meetings and Organisations:

- a) Neighbourhood Plan update: The Mayor gave members an update on the plan.
- b) HDC Improvement update: The Mayor gave members an update on the consultation dates and the leaflets being delivered.
- c) Cllr Knight updated Council on the Mortuary Chapel that their funds had been transferred to the Town Council High Interest Account and was ringfenced. Items had been removed and the keys will be handed back by the end of September. The Clerk with Lilibet Reeve opened the Mortuary Chapel on Heritage Day and had 70 visitors.

67. District and County Councillor Update:

District Councillor Update: Cllr Corney informed the meeting that on the Huntingdonshire District Council website you can see the Local Plan Refresh. Cllr Brereton informed the meeting about the NPPF radical changes and advised the Councillors to read it. Cllr Brereton informed the meeting that Hinchingsbrooke Hospital would be redeveloped before 2030 and that the Citizen Advice Bureau had moved to Pathfinder House. The Town and Parish Forum is on October 23rd, 2024.

County Councillor Update: Cllr Costello said the resurfacing of the Great Whyte had been moved back until the end of October due to administration error and Cllr Costello had checked that there were no plans for other utility companies to dig up the Great Whyte unless an emergency for two years. Cllr Costello informed the Council that from 14th October 2024 the 30mph signs on Puddcok Road would go up with a 40 mph buffer zone either end.

68. - Date of the Next Meeting

Thursday 26 September 7pm Consultation evening with presentations at 6pm, 7pm and 8pm.

Town Mayor _____ Date _____