



**MINUTES OF RYDE TOWN COUNCIL'S FINANCE & COMMUNITY RESOURCES  
COMMITTEE HELD ON  
TUESDAY 1 DECEMBER 2020 VIA THE ZOOM MEETING FACILITY**

Present: Cllr Phil Jordan (Chair), Cllr Henry Adams, Cllr Adrian Axford, Cllr Charles Chapman, Cllr Diana Conyers, Cllr Michael Lilley, Cllr Sue Lyons, Cllr Malcolm Ross

In Attendance: Luke Kerr (Wight Wave Beach Sports), Ellie Jenkins and Keith Gentleman (St John's Wood), Lisa Dyer, Liz Dutton, Tonia Voller, Gareth Hughes

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**18/20 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr Karen Lucioni.

**19/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Axford declared a pecuniary interest in agenda no. 8 – St John's Wood, Ryde as he owned a flat that backed onto the wood.

**20/20 MINUTES**

The minutes to the previous meeting held on 29 September 2020 were reviewed.

**RESOLVED:**

**THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2020 were approved as a true and accurate record and were signed off by the Chair.**

**21/20 MEMBERS QUESTIONS**

Cllr Chapman asked whether the outcome of a grant application to the Police and Crime Commissioners had been successful. The Clerk replied that the application had not been approved as further information was required and concerns about the proposal has been raised by the Ryde Community Safety Partnership.

Cllr Lyons asked about grant funding for a project for Network Ryde. This had been successful, and the project was now underway providing those at a high risk of exclusion from school the opportunity to become involved on the Network Ryde's Allotment.

The Mayor added that a meeting would shortly be taking place with the new Police Inspector along with shop owners to discuss anti-social behaviour and he would report back any developments.

The Mayor informed the meeting that fund raising continued for Ryde Unite and he would email details to all members.

**22/20 PRESENTATION FROM BEACH SPORTS/WIGHT WAVE BEACH SPORTS**

Luke Kerr thanked the Town Council along with other key partners for support for the event that taken place during this summer. The current beach location had maximised opportunities in allowing for more pitches, different sports to be played and the number of teams being able to participate. The current Covid restrictions meant that the effect of social distancing had reduced entry by 50% to 500 participants, whereas in the previous year the event had seen 1200 people taking part. This had resulted in a dramatic decrease in income from both sponsors as well as operating income. Some events for the senior team were cancelled due to social distancing concerns and the Youth team events were only open to local teams. Much of the marketing had been carried out via social media which allowed for a more global audience. Participants were actively encouraged by the organiser to be socially responsible and minimise any impact on the local area and were encouraged to cleaning up the beach both before and after events. It noted that IWC had not been as supportive as had been anticipated which had resulted in the events finishing the weekend earlier than planned which had been disappointing. A suggestion was made that future support from the Town Council could be given in the form of an annual grant. The Chairman thanked the organiser for an informative presentation and hoped that the event would continue to grow future years.

**23/20 ST. JOHNS PARK, RYDE**

(Cllr Axford who had declared a pecuniary interest, left the meeting for the discussion of this item).

With the permission of the Chairman the discussion of this item was moved up the order of business to allow to trustees St John's Park to attend. The trustees had approached the Town Council to take over the running and responsibility of the park and to ensure the park was retained for the use and enjoyment of the beneficiaries and for the benefit of the community, as a number of the Trustees have moved away, died or no longer wished to have the obligations associated with the management of the park. Questions were asked to the trustees about tree management and insurance and concerns were expressed about the state of the current boundaries whether the Town Council could afford another acquisition at the present time. It was agreed in principle to support the purchase of St John's Park and to set up a working party to investigate the issues raised and to bring a report to a future Full Council meeting for decision.

**RECOMMENDATION TO FULL COUNCIL:**

**That the purchase of St Johns Park be supported in principle and to establish a working party to bring a detailed report to Full Council.**

(Cllr Axford re-joined the meeting).

**24/20 REPORT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR AND ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

The Responsible Financial Officer confirmed that no issues had been raised following the External Audit and that the Annual Governance Statement had been approved by Full Council in August. The External Auditors report for 2019/20 was noted.

**25/20 REPORT FROM THE RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER**

(a) Budget for Ryde Theatre

The report updated members on the current position with regard to the theatre. Quotes were currently being sought for insurance. A report from East Hants Regen would be considered in due course by the HAZ group and a feasibility study (funded by Historic England) had been commissioned and the findings would be made public. The report was noted.

(b) Reserves Policy

Consideration was given to having a reserves policy which would set out the criteria for assessing the level of reserves that need to be held by the Town Council. This would take into account current outgoings, risks and contractual obligations and would set a minimum figure and ideal level of reserves. Capital and revenue costs and committed expenditure should be identified separately. Going forward the annual budget should set a level of reserves for the next financial year and should be reviewed on an annual basis.

**RESOLVED:**

**That a reserves policy be established for the next financial year.**

(c) Greening Ryde Project – ‘kickstart’ funding

Consideration was given to a new initiative that took a proactive approach in encouraging volunteers to becoming involved and support gardening projects around Ryde. It was envisaged that this could extend to organisations growing plants in polytunnels for use around the town and could support current contracts in their work and help ensure future maximum efficiency. The report was noted.

(d) Budget Monitor and Bank Reconciliation

Consideration was given to the budget monitor. There were a small number of underspends due to Covid, but projects were now slowly beginning to proceed. Network Ryde had some underspends in staffing due to trips to the mainland being halted. The Honours Working Party had not yet met to

discuss plans and a meeting to seek a way forward would be planned in the new year. The Bank Reconciliation had been circulated after the agenda was published. Both reports were noted.

(e) Virement – Christmas Lights

The Responsible Financial Officer informed the meeting that in previous years Island Roads had not charged for the putting up and taking down of the Christmas lights. They had previously indicated that this year they would be doing so, and costs would be in the region of £5,000. Members indicated that quotes for future years should be sought.

**RESOLVED:**

**That £5,000 should be taken from reserves for this year's Christmas lights and quotes sought for future years**

**26/20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED:**

**THAT the next meeting of the Finance and Community Resources Committee will be held on Tuesday, 12 January 2021 but at the earlier time of 4pm**