



**MINUTES OF RYDE TOWN COUNCIL'S FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY,
12 APRIL 2021 AT 7.00PM VIA THE ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE MEETING FACILITY
STREAMED LIVE VIA YOUTUBE**

Members Present: Cllr Michael Lilley (Chair), Cllr Charles Chapman, Cllr Diana Conyers, Cllr Phil Jordan, Cllr Malcolm Ross, Cllr Karen Lucioni, Cllr Sue Lyons, Cllr Ian Stephens, Cllr Lou Temel, Cllr Tim Wakeley and Cllr Wayne Whittle

Also in Attendance: Jon Baker (Committees Coordinator), Lisa Dyer (Clerk) and Chris Turvey (Planning, Regeneration and Environment Officer)

Note - Owing to the pre-election regulations in place ahead of the scheduled local town and parish council elections on 6 May 2021, public question time and members question time was suspended until after the elections.

Ahead of the meeting starting, the Mayor payed tribute the late Cllr Adrian Axford, the Deputy Mayor who had sadly passed away the previous month. A minutes silence was then held as a mark of respect.

20/21 APOLOGIES

No apologies were received

21/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared at this stage.

22/21 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None requested.

23/21 MINUTES

The minutes to the previous meeting held on 1 February 2021 were reviewed.

RESOLVED:

THAT the minutes to the meeting held on 1 February 2021 were approved as a true and accurate record and would be signed off by the Chair following the meeting

24/21 NOTICE OF ELECTION

Members were advised and noted that the date for the local Council Elections had been set for 6 May 2021 and that the Town Council was operating within in the pre-election period and that pre-election restrictions applied throughout the meeting.

25/21 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported to members on the following areas:

i. Skate Park

There had been some damage to one of the main walls which would cost in the region of £8,000 to rectify. This would put the Town Council at risk of spending half the annual budget on the facility in the first month of the financial year.

One option would be to look at removing the wall as it was assisting in people climbing in and out of the park when it was closed. This would therefore need to be considered at a Future Facilities and Asset Management Committee meeting. Members were advised such damage was not being blamed mainly on users as there had been an element of anti-social behaviour in recent months.

ii. Ryde Harbour

It was noted that after a slow start there had been a positive meeting with Isle of Wight Council (IWC) Officers and a schedule of meetings had been set for the future which would help to keep things on target with the Harbour.

At the first meeting IWC officers agreed that Ryde Town Council (RTC) could start to operate the Deck Chairs and Beach Equipment Hire Service during the Summer of 2021 which would be a year ahead of the Harbour takeover in 2022. It would also help to provide a welcome addition of activities and distract attention away from the emergency Southern Water Sewage works further up the beach at Appley.

RTC was also told that the completion of the transfer of Eastern Gardens could also proceed ahead of the Harbour transfer and half of the costs of an evaluation survey would also be met by RTC. Sand levels within the Harbour would also be managed by the IWC until as such a time RTC takes over ownership of it.

Information on leases would be forthcoming hopefully by the next meeting with the IWC.

iii. Beach Levelling

RTC as informed by IWC officers that it was their intention to remove 7,000 tonnes of sand from the beach which would be insufficient to complete the job properly. Following further discussions, the IWC advised that they would return with revised proposals in order to level the sand across the whole beach. However there was some indication that the IWC could still continue with their plans to remove the 7,000 tonnes which RTC would not be supporting if they did.

iv. St Thomas' Church

Funding of £30,000 from Historic England had been secured and scaffolding had been erected, roof repairs had commenced and pigeons removed. The next stage would be the selection of architects to proceed with further works.

With regard to moving services such as Network Ryde into the facility, further information should be available following discussions with the architects and with the possibility of additional funding through the High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ), it was possible that the Church could become an outstanding asset to the town.

v. Vectis Hall

The Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) had responded to RTC and they advised that they required more information in order to proceed with the loan application. The site had been cleared and the building secured with fencing erected to make it as safe as possible.

vi. Kickstart

The first Kickstart worker had begun in early April 2021 and would be assisting Facilities and Asset Management Officers in many areas such as allotments. Network Ryde had also offered a place to another individual but were awaiting various statutory checks on them before they could start employment.

vii. Ryde Theatre Insurance

Some initial quotes had been received and were somewhat startling. One was offering £40,000 per annum as a premium rate with £25,000 excess which would require 24 hour security on site and would far exceed the budget set aside for the Theatre. However the IWC had advised the Theatre would be part of the IWC's Levelling Up fund bid which may offer a solution without risk to RTC.

viii. Appley Public Conveniences

The large water bill refund that the Town Council was expecting was taking some time. Members would be advised as soon as the information was made available.

Engineers had visited the toilets and it was hoped that all facilities would be up and running as soon as possible.

26/21 BUDGET 2021/22

Members were advised and noted that a forecast of reserves had been circulated ahead of the meeting and the budget has been updated with the removal of Harbour Operating costs owing to the delay to RTC owning the Harbour until 2022.

Grants awarded by the Finance Committee had been added and also inputted were the amounts that were agreed in the budget to be taken out of earmarked reserves.

The deficit had been reduced from £100,000 to £60,000. The loan from the PWLB for Vectis Hall had not yet been included as a decision from them was still pending, however officers were confident the loan could be secured.

Following discussions members noted the update

27/21 PLANNING, REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The minutes to the meeting of the Planning, Regeneration and Environment Committee held on 13 January, 19 January, 8 February and 2 March 2021 were received and noted.

Members were advised that a revised Ryde Position Statement had been approved at the Planning Committee meeting held on 2 March 2021.

28/21 FINANCE AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The minutes to the meeting of the Finance and Community Resources Committee held on 12 January 2021 were received and noted.

29/21 ACQUISITION AND COMMERCIAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The minutes to the meeting of the Acquisitions and Commercial Management Committee held on 14 January 2021 were received and noted.

30/21 FACILITIES AND ASSET MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The minutes to the meeting of the Facilities and Asset Management Committee held on 20 October 2020 were received and noted.

Members were advised that the small Task and Finish Group that was to be established to look at all options around the future of the Skatepark had not been set up to date. The skatepark would be addressed at the next meeting of the Facilities and Asset Management Committee, although owing to pre-election regulations discussions may need to wait until the first meeting of this committee held after Annual Council on 17 May 2021.

31/21 VIRTUAL MEETING PROTOCOL

Following the Covid 19 Pandemic that had resulted in the national lockdown and the implementation of social distancing measures, the requirement to hold all Town Council meetings via the Zoom Video Conferencing Facility had been applied by RTC

Members were advised that whilst restrictions were currently in the process of being lifted via the governments "Road Map" and the announcement that physical meetings can resume from 17 May 2021, a policy on protocols around operating under such measures was still deemed necessary in order to ensure the Town Council was covered by such protocols in the event of any future necessity to hold remote meetings via video conferencing.

RESOLVED:

THAT the Virtual Meeting Protocol be agreed.

32/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

THAT the next meeting, which will be Annual Council, will be held on Monday 17 May 2021.