



## **MINUTES OF RYDE TOWN COUNCIL'S ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 5 JULY 2021 AT 7.00PM AT GARFIELD ROAD METHODIST CHURCH, RYDE**

**Members Present:** Cllr M Lilley (Mayor), Cllr G Carter, Cllr L Carter, Cllr C Chapman, Cllr S Cooke, Cllr J Higgins, Cllr P Jordan, Cllr L Kirkby, Cllr K Lucioni, Cllr J McLagan, Cllr R May, Cllr J Park, Cllr M Ross, Cllr J Sabine, Cllr I Stephens.

**Also in Attendance:** Jon Baker (Committees Coordinator) Allan Bridges (Business Development Manager), Lisa Dyer (Clerk)

**7 Members of the Public and 2 Press.**

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### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The following questions were put to Council by a member of the public:

**QUESTION** - Why had a motion around Westridge Farm only just been brought before Full Council?

**ANSWER** - The reason was that the family who live and work at the farm didn't want the motion proposed until it had the support from the Plunkett Foundation.

**QUESTION** - Would any councillor led surveys be published on the Town Councils website and social media pages?

**ANSWER** - Only official surveys would be published on the Ryde Town Councils various media platforms.

**QUESTION** - Could Ryde Town Council guarantee not to seek the relocation of the Skatepark?

**ANSWER** - A Task and Finish group, involving members, stakeholders and officers had been set up to look at all proposals and look to establish discussions around the future lease of the land and look at proposals around a satisfactory outcome for all users of the park.

**QUESTION** - Would Ryde Town Council look to retain the community support hub that has been so valuable to Ryde throughout the Covid 19 Pandemic?

**ANSWER** - The present policy is to continue to support the hub remaining open and available to residents in partnership with Aspire. In the long term a Community Connector programme would be looked at with Aspire and be presented as part of the 2022/23 Budget setting. IW Community Action still has funding to continue its resilience programme and discussions with Ryde Unite would also look to set up an improved future structure.

QUESTION - Are the Town Council going to put in place a costed plan, not just based on best intentions, around partnerships with local organisations as outlined on page 102 of the Ryde Place Plan which states *“There is a unique opportunity now, in the hands of the Town Council, to set in motion a plan that will celebrate the distinctive characteristics of place while demanding the best of the new, so that quality and authenticity adds richness to a life in Ryde”* ?

ANSWER - The Corporate Plan 2020-2025 will be reviewed in the Autumn, and this can be looked at as part of that review.

#### **61/21 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr Ian Dore

#### **62/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

None declared.

#### **63/21 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

None requested.

#### **64/21 MINUTES**

The minutes to the meeting held on 30 June 2021 were reviewed.

#### **RESOLVED:**

**THAT the minutes to the meeting held on 30 June 2021 be agreed and signed as a true and accurate account of the meeting.**

#### **65/21 MEMBERS QUESTIONS**

Cllr Ian Stephens asked if the Town Council were looking to fund a citizens advice bureau representative and if so, would it be performance related with outcomes and Value for Money recorded?

It was noted that a grant had been agreed as part of grants for charitable organisations and that a vetting process was part of the application received. Part of the condition of the grant being accepted was that a report on impact and outcomes would be supplied which could be made available for public viewing on the Town Councils' website.

Cllr Georgie Carter asked if the survey around the proposed Ryde Interchange which was set up by a local resident could be considered by members as part of discussions around the development?

Members were advised that the survey and the Interchange itself would be discussed at a future Planning, Regeneration and Environment Committee.

## **66/21 MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Owing to time constraints the Mayor was unable to circulate his report on various items since the previous meeting. The report would be circulated to all members following the meeting as soon as it was possible to do so.

Members were however verbally advised on the following:

- Lifting of Covid 19 restrictions – These were due to be lifted nationally on 19 July 2021 although most Ryde Town Council staff were working at the Lind Street offices.
- Classic Car Show – This was due to be held, as planned, on 11 and 12 September 2021.
- Isle of Wight Day 2021 – This is to be on 11 September 2021 and Ryde Town Council would mark the occasion by honouring any residents who have contributed in a positive way to the town and its residents over the past 18 months.
- Schneider Trophy Air Races 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary – This will be held on 13 and 14 September 2021 with a race starting from Ryde Pier.

## **67/21 CLERKS UPDATE**

The Clerk provided updates on the following items:

- Recruitment – Two new members of staff had joined the Town Council. One in Finance assisting with the accounts and the other was to manage the new beach front hire business.
- Kickstart Scheme – The Town Council had sadly lost one member and was in the process of considering a replacement, but recruitment was proving to be difficult.
- Beach Front Operations – The new storage container had received planning permission and had been delivered ready for operations to start in mid-July.
- Ryde Harbour – Whilst meetings with IWC Officers continued, there was a snag identified around the site of the proposed new Harbour Office around the land and footway which could prove costly to address. It was therefore proposed that the original site of the office would be maintained with a new office in place there.

## **68/21 PLANNING, REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – MINUTES.**

The minutes to the meetings held on 4 and 25 May 2021 were noted.

#### **69/21 FINANCE AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES COMMITTEE / GRANTS SUB COMMITTEE – MINUTES.**

The minutes to the Finance and Community Resources Committee held on 9 March 2021 and the minutes to the Grants Sub Committee held on 18 December 2020 were noted.

#### **70/21 FACILITIES AND ASSET MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE / NETWORK RYDE MANAGEMENT SUB COMMITTEE.**

The minutes to the Facilities and Asset Management Committee held on 27 April and the Network Ryde Management Sub Committee held on 3 March 2021 were noted.

#### **71/21 ACQUISITIONS AND COMMERCIAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The minutes to the Acquisitions and Commercial Management Committee held on 15 March were noted.

#### **72/21 ACQUISITIONS AND COMMERCIAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Owing to the slowing down of future major acquisitions and to allow more effective use of staff resources, it was proposed and seconded that the Acquisitions and Commercial Management Committee be amalgamated with the Finance and Community Resources Committee and that the terms of reference be amended to reflect the proposed integration of both committees.

It was therefore:

#### **RESOLVED:**

- i. THAT the amalgamation of the Acquisitions and Commercial Management Committee and the Finance and Community Resources Committee be agreed.**
- ii. THAT the amended terms of reference to the Finance and Community Resources Committee be agreed.**

#### **73/21 WESTRIDGE FARM MOTION – 01/21**

Members considered and discussed a motion submitted around the Town Council supporting the idea of Westridge Farm in Elmfield, Ryde becoming a Community Farm and that Ryde Town Council applies to the Isle of Wight Council for the farm to be listed as a community asset.

Members were concerned that the loss of the farm would have a detrimental effect on the local community and Island wide as it was one of a few numbers of working dairy farms that were still in operation. There were also concerns raised by some members that a family would lose its livelihood should the farm close owing to the proposed West Acre Park development. Members also noted a petition containing

some 4,000 plus signatures had been submitted in support of the farm remaining in place.

After a show of hands, it was:

**RESOLVED:**

- i. **THAT Ryde Town Council supports the idea of Westridge Farm becoming a Community Farm.**
- ii. **THAT Ryde Town Council applies to the Isle of Wight Council for Westridge Farm to be listed as an Asset of Community Value.**

**74/21 CANOE LAKE**

Members considered a report from the Business Development Manager proposing that Ryde Town Council enters into an agreement with the Isle of Wight Council to increase from a once-a-week cleaning of the area around the Canoe Lake to twice a week. This would address growing concerns from residents that the Canoe Lake looks increasingly messy and provides a bad image of Ryde to visitors.

Such an increase in cleaning would be at a cost of £6,730.50, to which Ryde Town Council would contribute 50% (£3,365.25 plus VAT) for the remaining summer period of 2021 – or 16 weeks.

There was some discussion around the top part of the lake being cleaned by Island Roads as it was part of the public highway. Members also enquired whether it could be done inhouse, following procurement rules of acquiring three quotes as this may be a cheaper option.

Members were advised that the pathway around the canoe lake was owned by the Isle of Wight Council as part of their public realm.

After much discussion it was proposed and seconded that the request be accepted for one year only with any possible extension being considered at a later date.

**RESOLVED:**

**THAT a one year agreement around the increase in the cleaning of the area around the Canoe Lake be agreed.**

**75/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL**

**RESOLVED:**

**THAT the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 14 July 2021.**

**Meeting closed at 8.25pm.**