



MINUTES OF RYDE TOWN COUNCIL'S FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 7.00PM AT GARFIELD ROAD METHODIST CHURCH, RYDE

Members Present: Cllr M Lilley (Mayor), 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 I Stephens.

Also in Attendance: Jon Baker (Committees Coordinator), Lisa Dyer (Town Clerk).

Guest Speakers: Lucy Nicholas (Island Resilience Co-Ordinator), Sally Thompson (HSHAZ) and Abigail Wheeler (Cultural Consortium).

8 Members of the Public.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The following questions were put to Council:

Q. Is there a ruling restricting Councillors from making comments on Planning Applications within their wards and is there a time limit for Councillors to respond to emails from residents?

A. The Clerk confirmed that Councillors may make comments on planning applications within their wards, but they should do so in their capacity as an individual and not respond on behalf of the Council. There is no time limit or statutory obligation for Councillors to respond to correspondence from residents unless they receive a Freedom of Information Request.

Q. Regarding the plans for Ryde Interchange, what is the Town Council doing to support local businesses and residents? A petition of 2500 was handed in today so what response will Ryde Town Council be giving, and do they have a policy regarding petitions?

A. The Mayor explained that Ryde Town Council are organising an Open Day to investigate the plans for the interchange and receive the views of residents, after which they will form a view and issue a response. The Mayor confirmed that the Town Council does not have policy regarding petitions.

88/21 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Ian Dore, Cllr Georgie Carter, Cllr Lisa Carter and Cllr Jenna Sabine.

89/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None declared.

90/21 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None requested.

91/21 MINUTES

The minutes to the meetings held on 5 July 2021 and 14 July 2021 were reviewed.

RESOLVED:

THAT the minutes to the meetings held on the 5 July 2021 and the 14 July 2021 be agreed and signed as a true and accurate account of the meetings.

92/21 PRESENTATION FROM LUCY NICHOLLS – EAST WIGHT RESILLIENCE CO-ORDINATOR.

Members received a presentation from the East Wight Resilience Co-Ordinator regarding the ongoing resilience project in the area.

93/21 PRESENTATION AND UPDATE FROM SALLY THOMPSON HIGH STREET HERITAGE ACTION ZONE (HSHAZ) PROJECT MANAGER.

Members received a presentation from the HSHAZ Project Manager Sally Thompson and the Cultural Consortium Manager Abigail Wheeler who gave an overview of the current project and the progress made to date.

94/21 MEMBERS QUESTIONS

Councillor Chapman that the Royal British Legion will launch their Poppy Appeal in October and more information regarding the Remembrance Day events will follow.

Councillor Jordan asked if Councillors could be provided with an update from the Ryde Theatre Working Group.

Cllr McLagan responded saying the working group had met twice and confirmed that Platform One did not put an offer in for the building but may have interest in occupying some of the space once the building is renovated.

95/21 MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor updated members on various areas of activity and business which was circulated for all members to note.

96/21 CLERKS UPDATE

The Clerk provided an update on the following:

Beachfront Operations

After initial difficulties of obtaining planning permission, purchasing equipment and staff training the beach hire business was ready for operation at the beginning of the summer holidays. Despite it being the coldest August in 25 years the feedback from the public has been overwhelmingly positive. Due to the cold weather many shifts were cancelled which resulted in the Town Council losing several staff to other more consistent employment over the summer, this in turn had a knock-on effect for the Council with staff being drafted in to cover. Special thanks were expressed to Liam Pearce, Shona Parnell, Allan Bridges, Shay Dixon and Jake Babington for stepping in to cover and move equipment. The Town Council have learned a lot over the short summer period, the most pressing of which is that it has little storage space, and a proposal will be coming to the next Facilities and Asset Management Committee meeting regarding a possible extension to the Appley Toilet block to ensure the Town Council has adequate storage and space for staff. The Town Council has also struggled with only being allowed to have four people insured to drive the van which has left it under pressure at times.

Ryde Harbour Acquisition

Meetings with the Isle of Wight Council (IWC) have been going ahead as planned and good progress was being made. Three tranches of emergency dredging are scheduled to start shortly with the first round due on the 13 September 2021. The contractor will need to block off some of Quay Rd car park to undertake the works and a new Harbour assistant has been appointed by the IWC with the work to facilitate the handover of the operations side of the Harbour starting shortly.

Lind Street Offices Flood

Staff have moved back into the office temporarily as it has now dried out following the flooding of it during the recent storms, however, staff will have to move out again whilst works to the drains is undertaken. There are 10 years left on the current lease on the main offices, and a request for rent to be revised for the period had been submitted to account for the Town Council not being able to use the office. The Clerk thanked Ryde Rowing Club for facilitating the Town Council during the emergency as it was impossible to operate at all over the summer without having a base there.

Operational Issues

As many were aware, the Town Council have had several staff on annual leave, unwell or isolating due to possible Covid infection over the summer which at times had left it extremely short staffed. Covid has affected staff and their families, and this disruption will probably continue for some time to come. Members were asked to bear with the situation and staff were endeavouring to do their best. However, at times the Town Council has been reduced to one or two fit staff members allowed out and available for work, which has made operating over the summer extremely difficult.

Summer events

The Town Council arranged 27 two-hour performances at Western Gardens over the Summer months, many of whom were directed via Platform One which is a relationship it hopes to build on further for 2022.

The Town Council also teamed up with Leigh Hyatt to provide a number of activities at Eastern Gardens on key weekends including music from:

- Derek Sandy (every available Monday through the Summer)
- Steel Drum Band
- Ryde Ukulele Group
- Beth Brookfield
- JC & Angelina
- Cat Skelton

Huxley also provided magic over four days during the summer.

Everything was hastily arranged due in part to Covid but also predominantly because the Town Council went through the elongated process of taking control of Eastern Gardens through a lease agreement from the IWC.

The reception to the events had been fantastic and, given how bad the weather had been during much of the summer, a major positive boost for the Town Council.

The partnerships in place with Leigh, Platform One and the Bus Museum has been of massive benefit and will be so again in 2022 as the Town Council looks to make the entertainment bigger and better. This was all delivered under budget and meetings are already booked and plans also being drawn up to provide a wider array of entertainment at Eastern Gardens next year.

97/21 PLANNING, REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

- i. The minutes to the meetings held on 15 June, 6 July and 16 August 2021 were noted.
- ii. The resignations of Cllr Kirkby and Cllr L Carter were noted.
- iii. Cllrs Lucioni and Cllr May were nominated and seconded to be appointed to the Committee.

RESOLVED:

THAT the appointments of Cllrs Lucioni and Cllr May to the Planning, Regeneration and Environment Committee be agreed.

98/21 FINANCE AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The minutes to the meeting held on 18 May 2021 and the minutes to the Acquisition and Commercial Management Committee (now dissolved) held on the 17 June 2021 were all noted.

Members also noted the following grants that were agreed by the Grants Sub Committee held on 30 June 2021:

- The Methodist Church Ryde - New laptop £450
- IW Venue Campaign – Project Geranium £300
- Vernon Square – Tree felling £1,715
- St John the Baptist Church – Repair of Wall £2,500
- Men Only – To provide peer support and friendship groups £3,000
- Ryde Cricket Club – Equipment to establish and women and girl’s section £2,000
- Citizens Advice – Provision of 1 advisor in Ryde for 1 day a week (1 year) £4,124

99/21 FACILITIES AND ASSETS COMMITTEE

The minutes to the Facilities and Assets Committee held on 27 April 2021 were noted.

100/21 MARKETING WORKING PARTY

At the meeting of the Marketing Working Party held on 14 July 2021, members discussed branding and the essential means of communication required as the Town Council moved towards a more of a digital presence. It was therefore agreed to recommend to Full Council that the Town Council change its website name and email address to www.ryde.gov.uk.

RESOLVED:

THAT the change of website address to ryde.gov.uk be agreed

101/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL

RESOLVED:

THAT the next meeting will be held on Monday, 1 November 2021.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Signed.....
Michael Lilley
Mayor of Ryde

1st November 2021.