



## **MINUTES OF RYDE TOWN COUNCIL'S FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 7.00PM IN GARFIELD ROAD METHODIST CHURCH, RYDE**

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

**Also in Attendance:** Jon Baker (Committees Coordinator), Allan Bridges (Business development Manager) and Lisa Dyer (Town Clerk).

10 Members of the Public and one member of the press also present.

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### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The following questions were put to Council by two members of the public:

- Ryde has the largest population of any town on the Island and just one Police Station manned only during office hours Monday to Friday and not at all at weekends, with no access for public walk in. Will Ryde Town Council therefore commit to inviting Donna Jones, the Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to attend an open Town Council meeting before the first anniversary of the new council to address the concerns around the lack of policing in Ryde and its surrounding areas with a Question and Answers session to follow?

The Mayor responded by stating that the previous PCC had been invited on numerous occasions but disappointingly to no avail. Mrs Jones will be invited and encouraged to address the council as soon as possible and that members of the public will be welcome to attend and put questions to her around the unacceptable levels of crime and anti-social behaviour.

- Are the Town Council aware of the barriers at Ladies Walk within Ryde Golf Course as there are safety issues for those walking with cyclists passing by?

The Mayor agreed to investigate the issue and report the issue to the appropriate agency for action.

### **102/21 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr L Carter and Cllr Ian Dore

## **103/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Cllr Jenna Sabine declared a personal and pecuniary interest in minute 106/21 (Appley Tower) as she was the founder and owner of Monkton Arts. Cllr Sabine would not be present during the Appley Tower item and the subsequent vote.

## **104/21 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

None requested.

## **105/21 MINUTES**

The minutes to the meeting held on 6 September 2021 were reviewed.

### **RESOLVED:**

**THAT the minutes to the meeting held on the 6 September 2021 be agreed and signed as a true and accurate account of the meetings.**

## **106/21 APPLEY TOWER**

Cllr Sabine left the meeting for this item.

Members were given a presentation by Graham Biss, the Managing Director of Natural Enterprise Ltd on the proposals around securing the future of Appley Tower in Appley Park, Ryde.

Appley Tower is an historic and iconic landmark of Ryde and the Island as a whole, valued by residents. The original objective was for the following:

- Establish costs of any repairs.
- Ensure the building is safe and secure.
- Enhance the internal structure.
- Establish a sustainable economic future model.
- Keep the tower in community use.
- Re-establish access to the top of the tower as a public viewpoint.

Subject to confirmation of the current costings a bid would be submitted for a Heritage Lottery Fund Bid for grant funding of £250,000 by the end of 2021. The Isle of Wight Council (IWC) had agreed to fund £40,000 and Ryde Town Council was requested to match fund this, bringing the total to £330,000, the required amount for the renovation and repair costs.

Members were advised that owing to current predictions around inflation, there may be an increase in the total costs which could prove a potential obstacle, but there were no plans to increase the request of £40,000 from Ryde Town Council and alternative ways of raising funds would be explored should it be necessary.

Detailed drawings in support of a planning application, which would also include four new beach huts as economic enablers in support of the future use of the Tower would be submitted to the IWC in due course.

Members were reminded that the requested £40,000 had already been budgeted for in the 2021/2022 settlement. However, this could be earmarked in reserves should the money not be required until the next financial year.

After a debate and following a show of hands, the following was unanimously:

**RESOLVED:**

- i. **THAT the proposal as outlined in Natural Enterprise's presentation to secure the future of the building be agreed.**
- ii. **That the committing of £40,000 to the project and the earmark of this sum in reserves if not required by the end of this financial year, be agreed.**

**107/21 MEMBERS QUESTIONS**

Cllr Sabine re-joined the meeting.

Councillor Lucioni enquired if there were any plans to address the issues of anti-social behaviour in Appley Park, particularly near the tower where broken glass had been found due to individuals drinking.

Isle of Wight Council officers would be approached with a view to solving the matter. Ryde Inshore Rescue and the Rowing Club could also be approached to look a forming some sort of community action group.

Cllr Kirkby asked what was being done to alleviate the fears of local businesses regarding the Appley Sewage Pipeline collapse. Should their work not be completed on schedule, or the problem returns after a short period of time, could a penalty clause be issued to Southern Water to compensate the town and its businesses owing to the negative impact on tourism.

It was noted that the Mayor had visited the site along with the local MP where they met representatives from Southern Water. Assurances were given that the works would be fully completed by March 2022. An investment of £2million would be made to resolve the issues and ensure they won't occur again for the foreseeable future.

Southern Water had recognised that communication had been poor in the past year and that a press release would be published shortly to address all concerns and reassure the public that works would finish on the time stated with Appley Park and the North Walk leading to the Esplanade returned to normal.

**108/21 MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

Areas that were highlighted included:

- Covid Pandemic – Members were reminded that this was still a big issue and that the recent outbreak in the offices and the rising case of infections Island wide meant that everyone needed to be vigilant. Aspire had volunteers in place to assist with a Ryde Winter Plan.
- Harp on the Wight and Ryde Events – The Classic Car Extravaganza and Harp on the Wight took place earlier in the year and the Mayor thanked Vic Gallucci for an excellent Classic Car event and Anna of Michelangelo's for the superb Harp festival
- Pack Building on Cross Street and Shademakers - In 2022, Shademakers would be leading the Queen's Jubilee Parade in London. They are based in the old Packs building on Cross Street and have submitted a £1Million plus application to the Arts Council with support from Ryde Town Council, the IWC and Ryde Arts.
- Mental Well-Being Listening Tour started in Ryde at St. John's Church Hall – Cllr Lilley was appointed the new IW Mental Health Champion and has joined up with IW Health Watch to visit IW resident groups across the Island to listen to their views on how they feel after living so long with the threat of Covid.
- Ryde District Cup and Desmond Murphy – The Mayor was invited to the Ryde District Football Cup Final by the Treasurer of the Ryde District Cup committee, Desmond Murphy, to present the 2021 Ryde District Cup at Brading Town Football Club.
- Pickle & Dill, Crepe Lovers and so many great Ryde businesses needing a Thank you – The Mayor attended the first birthday of Pickle & Dill in Union Street as well as the opening of Crepe Lovers the new Creperie in the High Street. Ryde has a steady growth of new businesses opening and Ryde town council should offer its encouragement to them. Network Ryde will be running a Christmas / Thank you Card design competition in local schools which will then be delivered to organisations across the Town
- Bus Museum and Vectis 100th Anniversary – The Mayor officiated at the Bus Museum's Vectis Bus 100th Anniversary in October 2021 and highlighted what a great project it was and encouraged people to visit.
- Thank You day, visiting Ryde Schools, Grant Recipients and Projects - The 11 September marked Ryde Town Councils "Thank You" event to individuals and organisations as part of an Island-Wide event to acknowledge residents and organisations who supported the most vulnerable during the Covid19 pandemic.
- Mayor's Christmas Charity Appeal 2021 – The Mayor was planning to launch a Christmas appeal to support voluntary sector organisations that assist vulnerable residents through the winter. Local businesses and organisations would be approached for their support. Southern Water and Hover Travel have already been approached.

## **109/21 CLERKS UPDATE**

The Clerk provided an update on the following:

- Ryde Harbour Acquisition - Legal searches were underway and the three rounds of emergency dredging had now taken place. The Town Council were currently awaiting clarification of which assets on and around the harbour belonged to the IWC and which to Island Roads. This was being expedited on a regular basis.
- Appley Sand Park Issues / Proposals - A meeting with Lee Matthews (Parks and Beaches) of the Isle of Wight Council had identified that Appley Sand Park had been closed throughout much of Summer 2021 due to issues with drainage.

The plans were to improve the drainage, upgrade some of the equipment and make the playpark accessible all year round. Ryde Town Council contributes £24,000 on an annual basis towards the upkeep and replacement of play equipment across the town. The IWC have requested that this year the full allocation was put towards the improvements at Appley Park. The IWC also asking Southern Water for a contribution

- Queens Platinum Jubilee - The Queen's Platinum Jubilee would take place on Thursday 2 June 2022, and the Town Council had been contacted with plans being made for celebrations during that extended bank holiday weekend including the lighting of a Beacon. More details would be brought to the next Marketing Working Party meeting for consideration.

## **110/21 VISIONING DAY REPORT**

On 25 October 2021 Ryde Town Council staff and councillors attended a visioning day at Aspire in Ryde.

The purpose was for an exchange of ideas and discuss the town councils' future plans and aspirations. As a result of the meeting, the Visioning Day facilitator would compile a report which would summarise the day's activities along with any actions and recommendations.

Owing to a tight schedule between that day and the November meeting of Full Council, it was not possible to receive the report. It would however be made available to all members as soon as possible and would be noted at the next meeting of Full Council in January 2022.

## **111/21 WEBSITE IT SYSTEMS**

Members were advised that Ryde Town Council needed to conduct a full review of its website and all IT Systems with a view to promote better practices, functionality, and professionalism in order to improve communications.

Cllr Simon Cooke had been approached to assist in leading the initiative, working with all councillors and staff, owing to his experience in IT.

It was confirmed that Cllr Cooke would not receive any remuneration for any work he carries out for Ryde Town Council.

After a short debate it was proposed and seconded that Cllr Cooke be appointed and the following was unanimously:

**RESOLVED:**

**THAT the appointment of Councillor Simon Cooke to work with staff and councillors to review the Town Councils website and IT systems with a view to promote better practices and functionality, be agreed.**

**112/21 REMEMBRANCE DAY 2021**

Members were reminded that Remembrance Sunday, on 14 November 2021, was a national opportunity to remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended people's freedoms and protected their way of life.

The Remembrance Sunday chain of events was scheduled as follows:

- Parade to begin at 9.30am Station Street
- Parade turns down Newport Street heading to All Saints Church
- All Saints Church ceremony to begin at 10am
- Parade leaves All Saints Church after ceremony and continues down West Street hill, finally turning right on to Lind Street
- Parade to finish by the Memorial Shrine outside Ryde Theatre
- All Councillors and officers are welcome to attend

Members were also advised that four poppy wreaths had been ordered and were ready for collection at the town council offices for the monuments at Haylands/Ashey, Binstead and the Shrine in Lind Street as well one for the President of the Royal British Legion.

**113/21 PLANNING, REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

The minutes to the meetings held on 16 August 2021 and 7 September 2021 were received and noted. No recommendations from the meeting on 19 October 2021 were forthcoming.

**114/21 FINANCE AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

The minutes to the meetings held on 13 July 2021 were received and noted. No recommendations from the meeting on 14 September 2021 were forthcoming.

**115/21 MARKETING WORKING PARTY**

Members received a recommendation from the Marketing Working Party around the adoption of a new logo for Ryde Town Council. It had been designed for the beachfront business ahead of the summer season and since its use had been well received by members of the public and Ryde residents. It was felt that the new logo was more relevant to the town and promoted the council with a modern, corporate identity.

After a show of hands, it was:

**RESOLVED:**

**THAT the widening of the use of the new town council logo for use on all of Ryde Town Councils corporate paperwork and promotional material be agreed.**

**116/21 NOTICE OF MOTIONS 03/21 and 04/21**

The following two motions were presented to council by Cllr Les Kirkby:

a) Motion 03/21

- i. Ryde Town Council ceases negotiations with the owners of Ryde Theatre until a full Asbestos Survey and vermin report has been supplied to them by the owners of the theatre and received by Full Council.
- ii. No Ryde Town Council staff or Councillors shall enter the building until the report is received and states that it is safe for them to do so.
- iii. If the report highlights any health and safety risks relating to the existence of asbestos or vermin within the building, a full estimate of costs for the removal, or making safe, shall be provided to Full Council.

Budget Implications - None. Report supplied by the current owners of the theatre.

Legal Powers/Implications - The Town Council as an employer has an obligation to adhere to the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

A seconder for the motion was not forthcoming and therefore the motion fell.

b) Motion 04/21

- i. Proposal: Ryde Town Council purchase no additional buildings or businesses until all existing building projects have been completed.
- ii. That the Town Council agrees to cease the purchase of any further buildings or businesses, until all building projects within the current property portfolio are complete with the following exceptions, completing the purchase of Ryde Harbour or \*if there is a clearly defined need to facilitate the Council carrying out its existing business to accommodate staff or equipment. \* To be agreed by Full Council

Budget Implications - None.

Legal Powers/Implications - N/A

A seconder for the motion was not forthcoming and therefore the motion fell.

**117/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL**

**RESOLVED:**

**THAT the next meeting will be held on Monday, 31 January 2022.**

Meeting closed at

Signed.....  
Michael Lilley  
Mayor of Ryde

31 January 2022,





**MINUTES OF RYDE TOWN COUNCIL'S EXTRAORDINARY FULL COUNCIL  
MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 21 DECEMBER 2021 AT 7.00PM  
IN GARFIELD ROAD METHODIST CHURCH, RYDE**

**Members Present:** Cllr M Lilley (Mayor), Cllr C Chapman, Cllr Lisa Carter, Cllr G Carter, Cllr S Cooke, Cllr P Jordan, Cllr J McLagan, Cllr R May and Cllr M Ross

**Also in Attendance:** Jon Baker (Committees Coordinator), Allan Bridges (Business Development Manager), Lisa Dyer (Town Clerk) and Chris Turvey (Planning, Regeneration and Environment Officer).

1 Member of the Public

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**118/21 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr Ian Dore, Cllr L Kirkby, Cllr K Lucioni, Cllr J Sabine and Cllr Ian Stephens

**119/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

None

**120/21 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

None requested.

**121/21 BORROWING APPROVAL – PUBLIC WORKS LOAN BOARD. BEACHFRONT OPERATIONS**

Members were provided with a proposal requesting agreement to approve borrowing from the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government for the proposed capital investment for Ryde Harbour, Ryde Lifeguard Station, and alterations to Appley Toilet Facility in order to add a storage facility for the town councils beach front operations.

The total loan required for the current financial year was £250,000 and the proposed loan period would be 25 years. The total yearly cost of servicing the loan would be £14,553.92.

The business case for Ryde Harbour identified £190,000 of borrowing to achieve Phase 1 of the project and the cost of repayments would be included in the costs associated with Ryde Harbour. Loan repayment costs for a sum of £60,000 would be £3,492.94 per annum and would need to be included in Ryde Town Councils budget.

Members noted that the resolution tabled referred to improvements to the Appley toilet block, which was seen as misleading.

An amendment was therefore proposed and seconded to change the words Appley toilet block improvements to "Appley storage for beach front improvements".

After a show of hands, the amendment was agreed.

Members then voted on the revised resolution and the following was:

**RESOLVED:**

**THAT the following be agreed:**

- I. Ryde Town Council agrees to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government to apply for a borrowing approval of £250,000, over the borrowing term of 25 years, for the capital investments to Ryde Harbour, Ryde Lifeguard Station and Appley storage for beach front improvements.**

**The annual loan repayments on the above are estimated to be £14,600 and the associated investment is estimated to increase the annual precept of the Town Council by up to £3,500.**

- II. Ryde Town Council agrees to authorise the Responsible Financial Officer to undertake all necessary work to enable loan completion**

Meeting closed at 6.25pm

Signed.....  
Michael Lilley  
Mayor of Ryde

31 January 2022,