



MINUTES OF RYDE TOWN COUNCIL'S FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 31 JANUARY 2022 AT 7.00PM IN RYDE METHODIST CHURCH, GARFIELD ROAD, RYDE

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

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

7 Members of the Public and 1 member of the press present.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

- A member of the public asked why was the period for the public to ask questions at Full Council been reduced from 30 minutes to 15 minutes which on top of the reduction of meeting from monthly to bimonthly presented less opportunity to engage?

The Clerk responded by stating that the standing orders had always stipulated 15 minutes, but an administrative error had meant 30 minutes had appeared on previous agendas. The Chair always however had discretion to extend the period beyond a set time and this would continue to be the case.

- Regarding the proposed acquisition of St Johns Wood for £40,000 and the subsequent two years maintenance of £30,000 as outlined in the budget, the following questions were asked:
 - i. Had an independent valuation of the site been carried out?
 - ii. If purchased, had an annual rise in maintenance costs been factored in moving forward?
 - iii. Given that two thirds of those who responded to the public budget consultation survey were against the acquisition, would RTC reconsider the proposed purchase given the current national financial crises affecting people (or at least agree to defer any decision to enable further negotiations)?

Tim Smart Chartered Surveyors have been approached to value the site and the results will be made known once this has been completed.

The mayor advised that the decision to acquire St Johns Wood had been taken by the previous council in the 2021-2022 financial year to align with the Ryde Place Plan Green

Spaces objectives but had been put back 12 months. Natural Enterprise, who were contracted to manage Pig Leg Lane, were asked to look at St Johns Wood and had come back with some issues regarding the trees. The final decision on acquiring the site and agreeing any ongoing maintenance costs would therefore be made by members once all the facts and information had been received.

1/22 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Lisa Carter, Cllr Karen Lucioni and Cllr Ian Stephens.

2/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Cllr Jo Elliott declared an interest in minute 12/22 as she was an employee of Portsmouth University.

Cllr Phil Jordan declared an interest in minute 12/22 as he was the Isle of Wight Council's Cabinet Member for Highways PFI, Transport and Infrastructure (which incorporated Ryde Harbour).

Cllr Ian Dore declared an interest in minute 13/22 as he was the Isle of Wight Council's Armed Forces Champion.

3/22 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None requested.

4/22 MINUTES

The minutes to the meeting held on 1 November 2022 and the Extra-Ordinary meeting held on 21 December 2021 were reviewed.

Whilst there were no issues raised with the accuracy of both sets of minutes, Cllr Ross asked if there had been any progress made on the invitation to the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Police and Crime Commissioner to address Ryde Town Council? The Clerk confirmed that no response had been received to date.

RESOLVED:

THAT the minutes to the meetings held on the 1 November 2021 and the Extra-Ordinary meeting held on the 21 December 2021 be agreed and signed as a true and accurate account of the meetings.

5/22 MEMBERS QUESTIONS

Cllr John McLagan asked whether Full Council could be put back to monthly meetings. The mayor responded by stating that a motion could be put to all members of Full Council at any time to propose changing the frequency of meetings.

However, it was noted that the reason why Full Council was changed to a bi-monthly format was to enable officers more time to concentrate on delivering the additional responsibilities the Town Council had taken on in the previous two years.

Cllr McLagan also enquired whether the issues around the safety on Ladies Walk in Binstead had been resolved. It was noted that work had now been completed.

Cllr Les Kirkby asked were the Town Council intending to hand over the Harbour to a private company at some future juncture once it was acquired. The mayor reassured members that Ryde Town Council would continue to manage the Harbour for the foreseeable future as well as the Beach Hire facilities, as outlined in the Harbour Business plan.

Cllr Simon Cooke asked if there was any news on the future of Ryde Arena. It was noted that the relevant officers at the Isle of Wight Council would be contacted to find out if there were any plans in place.

Cllr Cooke also stated that he was now Ryde Town Councils representative on the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils (IWALC) and asked if he could provide a regular update at future meetings, to which he was told it would be very welcomed.

6/22 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:

- Mayor's Charity's appeal which had raised over £1500.
- Pancake Day Challenge – 5 March 2022. This would be to raise funds for Ryde Foodbanks)
- Appley Park and Appley Southern Water Works - This was due to be completed by the ends of February 2022 and Ryde Town Council was working with Southern Water, the Isle of Wight Council, and other stakeholders to have a range of improvements such as the play area, the toilet block and tree planting.

A programme of events in the park ranging from "Shakespeare in the Park" to the annual Beach Sports Festival was also planned.

- Jubilee and Recognition for Ryde Residents – This was for those who had contributed to the Town. The mayor would be putting forward a motion later at the meeting to recognise the hidden Ryde residents over the last 70 years of Queen Elizabeth's reign that make Ryde the special place it is and formally thank them.
- Kickstart Scheme. An update on the scheme was given and feedback from one of the placements at Grace's Bakery was read out, highlighting a successful outcome of the scheme.

7/22 CLERKS UPDATE

The Clerk provided an update on the following:

i. Grant Applications

Following Full Council awarding delegated authority to officers to apply for grants the following had recently been applied for:

- Platinum Jubilee Fund - £50,000 for improvements to St Thomas' Rest Gardens
- Police and Crime Commissioner's Safer Communities Grant - £107,244.03 applied for from 2022-2025 for two Network Ryde Mentors. One would be a community mentor and one would be linked to the new inclusion unit at Ryde Academy. The outcome of the application would be in April 2022.
- Short Breaks Funding for 2022-2023 for just under £4,000.
- Children in Need Youth Facilities funding for St Thomas.

ii. Ryde Harbour Acquisition

- There has been a build-up of sand at the entrance to the harbour which had attracted some negative press from berth holders. The Town Council have contacted the Isle of Wight Council and they have made £40,000 available to dredge the entrance. However, this work could not commence until 1 February 2022 due to habitat regulations governing Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Long term solutions were being considered around the issue of sand build up which included a scheme for the Isle of Wight Council to lower the beach level to the East of the Harbour. This would be done by removing the sand for use in construction projects and would bear no cost on the Isle of Wight Council.
- Ryde Town Council were seeking advice from Lymington Technical to discuss other long-term solutions around the dredging requirements at the harbour.
- Staff have begun their marina related training courses in readiness for the harbour takeover.

iii. Beachfront

- Planning approval has been granted for the proposed storage facility attached to the Appley Park Public Conveniences.
- Permission was being sought for the lease term on the lifeboat station to be increased to a minimum of 25 years. This was being done so that the planned essential improvements to the lifeguard station were financially viable and sustainable.

8/22 BUDGET SETTING AND PRECEPT REQUEST

Members considered the following:

i. Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) Budget Covering Report

The RFO presented the covering report which highlighted the areas of expenditure for the 2022-2023 financial year which was noted.

ii. 2022-2023 Budget Setting and Precept Recommendation from the Finance Committee meeting held on 18 January 2022 and consider and agree the Budget and Precept Request for The Financial Year 2022-2023.

The following amendment to the budget was proposed and seconded:

That within the proposed community grant budget the previous Ward Councillor annual grant of £250 per Councillor be reinstated to a total £4000 which will be for charities/voluntary and community groups within their Ward or wider Ryde (their choice) subject to final agreement of Finance Committee. In 2022/23, this grant could be used for Jubilee activities within Wards.

This would enable Ward Councillors to directly support activities in their ward and community causes they wish to highlight as well as support community engagement at grass-roots level and would not alter the overall budget or precept figure. Any decisions around the allocation of various grant monies would be made by the Finance and Commercial Management Committee.

It was noted that the 2021-22 tax base was 8087.4, however the tax base for 2022-23 was advised as being 8205.7 on Wednesday, 19 January 2022. The tax base had therefore increased by 118.3 Band D equivalent properties. The impact of the increase in tax base was that the recommended precept of £1,258,270 represented a 2.5% increase from the current years Band D Council Tax and an increase in Band D Council Tax of £3.78 per annum (from £149.56 to £153.34).

RESOLVED:

- a) **THAT the budget as presented, subject to an increase of £9,000 in the community grants budget, be agreed.**
- b) **THAT the precept sum of £1,258,270 be agreed.**
- c) **THAT within the proposed community grant budget the previous Ward Councillor annual grant of £250 per Councillor be reinstated to a total £4000 which will be allocated for charities/voluntary and community groups within their Ward or wider Ryde (their choice) subject to final agreement of Grants sub-committee. In 2022/23, this grant could be used for Jubilee activities within Wards.**

Any decisions around the allocation of various grant monies would be made by the Finance and Commercial Management Committee.

9/22 PLANNING, REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The minutes to the meetings held on 9 November 2022 and 30 November 2022 were received and noted. There were no recommendations to Full Council from the meeting held on 21 December 2021.

Members also noted the resignation from the Planning, Regeneration and Environment Committee of Cllr Karen Lucioni owing to her other commitments as a representative of Ryde on the Isle of Wight Council. It was therefore necessary to appoint a replacement. Cllr Jess Higgins was nominated and seconded.

After a show of hands, it was:

RESOLVED:

THAT the appointment to the Planning, Regeneration and Environment Committee of Cllr Jess Higgins be agreed.

10/22 FINANCE AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The minutes to the meetings held on 16 November 2021 were received and noted. Aside from the Budget and Council Tax precept setting, there were no further recommendations for all members of Full Council to agree.

Members also considered the following:

i. Contracts Which are Due for Renewal

A list of the contracts that were due to be revised prior to the end of July 2022 was circulated prior to the meeting and members were requested to consider and agree to them being renewed. After a proposal and seconder and show of hands, it was:

RESOLVED:

THAT the list of contracts due for renewal in 2022-2023 be agreed.

ii. Grant delegated authority to the Clerk to award the contracts in accordance with the awarding criteria.

It was proposed and seconded that the clerk be given the delegated responsibility to award the various contracts that were due for renewal and after a show of hands it was:

RESOLVED:

THAT the Clerk be granted delegated authority to award contracts.

iii. Appointment of Cllr Cooke to the Grants Sub-Committee

It was proposed and seconded that Cllr Simon Cooke be appointed to the sub-committee and after a show of hands it was:

RESOLVED:

THAT Cllr Simon Cooke be appointed to the Grants Sub-Committee

11/22 FACILITIES AND ASSET MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The minutes to the meetings held on 8 June 2022 were received and noted. At the meeting held on 7 December 2021, the committee agreed to recommend to Full Council the following:

Waiver of Contract Standing Order for the award of St Thomas' roof repair contract

This waiver was to enter a sole supplier contract in accordance with the Town Councils Contract Standing Orders. It was noted that the Town Council was unable to find three suitably qualified roofers to supply a quote in line with Ryde Town Council's legal tendering process, hence the need for the waiver.

The quote received from P E Ronan roofing was in line with the surveyors estimates and allowed the work to be completed and in accordance with the timeframe set by the Historic England -31 March 2022. The works would begin from the start of February 2022.

Cllr Kirkby questioned why no other roofers could be identified to carry out the works, potentially at a lower cost. The Clerk stated that the grant monies needed to be spent by the end of March 2022 or the funding would be lost. Other contractors had been asked to quote but were unable or unwilling to do so within the timescales required. The proposed contractor was the only company which responded who could complete the works in the set time scale.

The waiver was proposed and seconded and after a show of hands it was:

RESOLVED:

THAT Waiver of Contract Standing Orders for the award of the St Thomas' Roof Repair Contract, be agreed.

12/22 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH PORTSMOUTH UNIVERSITY

Cllr Elliott left the room for the duration of this item.

It was noted that there was an increasing need for an agreement between Ryde Town Council and Portsmouth University to reach a common ground around delivering better opportunities and outcomes for the people of Ryde.

Members were requested agree in principle for a draft agreement to be drawn up to move forward.

After a proposal and seconder and a show of hands, it was:

RESOLVED:

THAT a Memorandum of Understating between Ryde and Town Council and Portsmouth University be agreed in principle.

Cllr Elliott re-entered the room.

13/22 ARMED FORCES COVENANT

Cllr Dore, who is the Armed Forces Champion of the Isle of Wight Council presented to members a request for Ryde Town Council to support the raising of awareness for the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme, which encompasses bronze, silver, and gold awards for employer organisations that pledge, demonstrate or advocate support to defence and the armed forces community aligning their values with the Armed Forces Covenant.

The covenant was a pledge made between the Island's civilian community and the armed forces whose aim was to tackle any disadvantages arising from service and develop a better understanding between the civilian and armed forces community.

After a proposal and seconder, and a show of hands, it was:

RESOLVED:

THAT Ryde Town Council agrees to sign up to the Armed Forces Covenant.

14/22 WESTERN GARDENS - SURRENDER OF LEASE TO THE ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL

Members were presented with the Agreement for Surrender regarding the Public Conveniences at Western Esplanade, Ryde between the Isle of Wight Council and Ryde Town Council.

Regarding the replacements that would eventually be located at the new Train Station, a written agreement on this was expected in due course and in the interim, temporary toilets would be provided and a planning application for them would be submitted in due course.

It was also noted that the Isle of Wight Council would pay any legal fees for Ryde Town Council. It was also noted that hand washing units may be able to be moved to replace the damaged units at Appley Park toilets.

RESOLVED:

THAT the Surrender of Lease to the Isle of Wight Council of the Western Gardens Public Conveniences, be agreed.

15/22 HARBOUR WORKING PARTY

Members considered the following:

- i. To appoint members to the Harbour Working Party

Membership of the Harbour Working Party needed to be reviewed as most councillors who had sat on it in the past were no longer members of the Town Council.

It was proposed and seconded that Cllrs Higgins, Ross, Lucioni and Chapman were proposed and seconded to sit on the working group. It was also noted that Cllr May would also be willing to be considered as a reserve should Cllr Lucioni (who was not in attendance) not be able to accept the membership.

After a show of hands, it was:

RESOLVED:

THAT the appointments of Cllrs Higgins, Ross, Lucioni and Chapman to the Harbour Working Party (with Cllr May acting as a reserve) be agreed.

- ii. To note the amended terms of reference for the Harbour Working Party

Members noted the amended terms of reference.

16/22 VISIONING DAY REPORT

On 25 October 2021 councillors and members of staff attended a second Visioning Day at Aspire in Ryde, to discuss and review the current workload and priorities of Ryde Town Council from both the councillors and staff team perspective and to highlight the successes and challenges of the previous 18 months as well as look forward and identify what was needed to ensure the successful delivery of key projects both present and in the future.

Members noted the report.

17/22 NETWORK RYDE CHARITY

Members considered the following:

- i. To agree to the setting up of a charity to create projects which benefit local young people.

Members discussed and agreed that such an initiative would be of great benefit to the town's young people.

After a proposal and seconder, and a show of hands, it was:

RESOLVED:

THAT the setting up of a Charity be agreed

- ii. To delegate authority to officers to set up the charity in consultation with the Chair of the Network Ryde Management Sub Committee.

After a proposal and seconder, and a show of hands, it was:

RESOLVED:

THAT the delegation of authority to officers to set up a charity to create projects that would benefit local young people in consultation with the Chair of the Network Ryde Management Sub Committee, be agreed.

18/22 NOTICE OF MOTION - 01/22 QUEENS JUBILEE HONOUR'S AWARDS

The mayor presented to members a motion that requested support to award various residents of the town to mark Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee in 2022.

It was noted that there was a typographical error where the first part of the motion should state born before 1952 (not 1940) and that the second part should state who were born on and after 1952 (not after 1940).

A budget of £2,500 would be allocated from the Town Marketing budget.

After a proposal and seconder, and a show of hands, it was:

RESOLVED:

THAT the following be agreed:

- 1. Ryde Town Council resolves as part of the Jubilee Celebrations to award 7 "magnificent" Ryde residents born prior to 1952 the 'Freedom of Ryde' collectively for their magnificent and substantial contribution to making Ryde the town it is today. One for every decade of Queen Elizabeth's reign.**

Nominations to be sought across the Town from organisations and residents. The Honours Committee to select the 7 from nominations and present these to Full Council for ratification.

- 2. Ryde Town Council resolves as part of the Jubilee Celebrations to award and acknowledge Ryde residents who were born on or after 1952 (all ages) who have significantly contributed to making Ryde the town it is today. Nominations to be sought across the Town from organisations and residents. The Honours committee to decide a shortlist of nominations.**

All awards to be presented at an event that is part of the Jubilee celebrations.

19/22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL

RESOLVED:

THAT the next meeting will be held on Monday, 7 March 2022 at the Methodist Church, Garfield Road, Ryde.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm

Signed.....

Michael Lilley
Mayor of Ryde Town Council

7 March 2022