



MINUTES OF RYDE TOWN COUNCIL'S FINANCE AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES COMMITTEE
HELD ON TUESDAY, 18 JUNE 2024 AT 7.00PM
IN RYDE BAPTIST CHURCH, GEORGE STREET

Members Present: Cllr Richard May, Cllr Malcolm Ross, Cllr Phil Jordan (Chair), Cllr Jess Higgins, Cllr Simon Cooke

Also in Attendance: Tara Bloomfield (Responsible Financial Officer), Robert Clark (Finance Assistant), Ilze van der Merwe (Apprentice Receptionist and Digital Marketing), Cllr Diana Conyers

Members of the Public - 3

145/23 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

After a show of hands, Cllr Higgins was elected as Vice Chair.

RESOLVED:

THAT, Cllr Higgins would be elected as Vice Chair.

146/23 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received by Cllr Chapman, Cllr Carter and Cllr Lilley.

147/23 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

None declared.

148/23 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None requested.

149/23 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd April 2024 were reviewed.

RESOLVED:

THAT, the minutes to the meetings held on 23rd April 2024 were approved and were signed off by the Chair.

150/23 LIST OF PAYMENTS

The list of payments for 01/04/2024-30/04/2024 were presented and approved.

Cllr Cooke asked for an update on the position of the loan for the Natwest Building. The RFO stated that the loan will be drawn down in the later part of this year, with repayments falling due 6 months after the draw down date which will fall in the next financial year.

151/23 BANK RECONCILIATION

The bank reconciliations for the periods ending 30/04/2024 – 31/05/2024 were presented and approved.

152/23 FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

The committee were asked to elect four members to sit on the Finance Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED:

THAT, Cllr Cooke, Cllr Higgins, Cllr Ross and Cllr Jordan would be part of the Finance Sub-Committee.

153/23 FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The committee was asked to agree the proposed schedule of meetings for the Finance Sub-Committee. It was noted that these would be daytime meetings at 2pm.

RESOLVED:

THAT, the meetings for the Finance Sub-Committee were agreed.

154/23 INTERNAL AUDIT 2023/24

The committee were asked to receive and recommend the Internal Audit to Full Council.

The RFO stated that the only comment received was that on the Ryde Town Council website, the draft minutes should be taken down when the published minutes were uploaded.

RESOLVED:

THAT, the committee agreed to recommend the Internal Audit 2023/24 to Full Council.

155/23 APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

The committee were asked to reappoint Lightatouch as the internal auditor for 2024/25.

The RFO explained that the council should look to change internal auditor every 4-5 years and that we are currently in year 3 with Lightatouch. They noted that the current internal auditor was thorough and provided clear guidance.

RESOLVED:

THAT, Lightatouch would be reappointed as internal auditor for 2024/25.

156/23 CHANGING PLACES CONTRACT

The committee were asked to ratify the decision via email to grant a two year contract for a changing places provision on Eastern Gardens.

Cllr May asked if there was a chance that after the two-year contract period of renting, RTC could look at an option to buy the unit. The RFO agreed that a permanent solution would be preferable, and it would be considered in any future development of the area. Cllr Ross asked where the changing places provision was located, and it was noted it would be behind the Eastern Gardens toilets and would be accessible on the pavement side. It was also noted this was paid out of the Beach Accessibility Crowdfunder.

RESOLVED:

THAT, the committee ratified the email approval for the award of the changing places contract which totals £20,590 over the two years.

157/23 CONTRACTS DATABASE

The committee received the updated contracts database as at 30/04/2024.

158/23 ANNUAL INSURANCE

The committee were asked to approve the RFO to use delegated powers to agree the annual insurance renewal for 2024/25.

The RFO explained that the main insurance would come in on the 1st of July and that they were waiting for the survey of the re-evaluation of St Thomas'. Cllr Cooke noted that the Natwest building seemed much less in comparison to St Thomas' and it was explained that St Thomas' had heritage factors to consider as well as all the fittings and building work.

Cllr Ross enquired as to what the proportion of insurance was being paid to the Esplanade Toilets. The RFO stated that they paid a percentage of the landlord's insurance for the building and have added the contents to the council's main policy.

RESOLVED:

THAT, the committee approved the RFO to agree the annual insurance under delegated powers.

159/23 ST THOMAS' CAPITAL SPEND

The committee were asked to ratify expenditure from the St Thomas Capital earmarked reserve as at 30/04/2024.

The RFO explained that this is for works that fall outside of the Youth Investment Fund Grant but needed to be undertaken to restore the building. Any expenditure left in the earmarked reserve would be carried forward each year for any ongoing repairs required.

RESOLVED:

THAT, the St Thomas' Capital Spend was ratified.

160/23 TOWN BOARD EXPENDITURE

The committee were asked to grant the RFO and Clerk authority under delegated powers to settle approved invoices/costs arising on behalf of the Ryde Town Board which would then be recharged.

It was noted that this should be in place legally and would keep things running.

RESOLVED:

THAT, the committee agreed to approve authority to the RFO and Clerk to settle invoices on behalf of the Town Board.

161/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on 16th July 2024.