
Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held at 6pm on 22nd May 2019 at The Methodist Church Hall, Garfield Road, Ryde.

1. Apologies.

No apologies were received.

2. Annual Report on the work of the Town Council from the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Malcolm Ross and introduction to the new Mayor.

The Mayor gave the following report (attached Appendix 1), and welcomed Councillor Michael Lilley as the new Mayor for Ryde.

3. To award the successful Duke of Edinburgh award participants and the Community Alcohol Partnership prize winners.

Phil Plant from Network Ryde reported on the work that the D of E students have completed over the last year towards their Bronze Award which included raising money for the Wessex Cancer Trust whilst litter picking. Phil also reported on the work of the students who participated in the Community Alcohol Partnership competition which raised awareness of the issues surrounding alcohol through a form of art. This was completed in conjunction with various professionals to support and provide advice.

The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award winners were:

- Ronin Jayston
- Carolina Lamb
- Ben Milward
- Ellie Urquhart
- Grady Henley
- Owen Marshall
- Stella Baisley
- Adam Todd
- Sam Smith
- Patrick Douglas
- Harvey Newman

The Community Alcohol Partnership prize winners were:

- Grace Clifton
- Archie Barber
- India Dale
- Lili Mae Lane
- Lilly Pettitt

4. To receive a report on the work of Aspire over the last year.

Heath Monaghan, CEO of Aspire, gave a report on the work of Aspire over the last year and the plans for the future.

It was reported that:

- Aspire now have over 120 regular volunteers
- They have had over a £2,000,000 social and fiscal value impact from an income of £127,178

- They continue supporting people through mental health issues, addiction, homelessness and other social issues and have over 3000 users per week
- Aspire have exceeded their total annual turnover through grants and other ways of working
- They are looking to develop the building for better use which includes the opening of a new play centre
- They have created employment - 6 part time roles and 1 full time role
- Their Annual Report and Financial Statements are now available to view

5. To receive a report on the work of Isle Access over the last year.

Jan Brookes, CEO of Isle Access, gave a report on their work over the last year. It was reported that:

- Isle Access have worked with businesses to help enable easier access for more residents
- They aim to help not only with access but improve the lives of disabled people and reduce social isolation
- They have worked with individuals to enable better mobility through schemes such as hand operated bikes and have inspired one of the Islands para-olympians.
- They have received grants from organisations including Ryde Town Council to help enable services to be more accessible
- They are working with Southern Vectis to arrange a morning for an empty bus to allow residents to practice and boost their confidence when travelling on the bus using mobility aids
- They are aiming to make more accessible beaches

6. To receive a report on the work of Ryde Business Association over the last year.

A report was given by Zoe Thompson, Chair of Ryde Business Association (attached Appendix 2). The report highlighted that:

- RBA held 15 meetings over the last year to allow for specific topics to be discussed
- 68 businesses and organisations have been represented at these meetings
- RBA now has 252 businesses involved
- They have carried out 4 social media based training events to support businesses
- They have been involved with a number of consultations, including parking and regeneration
- They are encouraging and supporting the micro-businesses in Ryde to review new Government reports on the future of High Streets and preparing for the predictions
- They are now signed up to a campaign which will be running this summer, promoting the support of local businesses

7. To receive a report on the work of Ryde Society over the last year.

The Chair of Ryde Society, Stella Davis, reported that:

- The Ryde Society begun from concerns of proposed flats on the seafront

- They now have 7 members in a steering group and have set up an environment group which is looking at seaside planting and trees
- They have a number of volunteers which are now working with events such as the carnival
- They have been liaising with Chris Ashman and Dave Stewart from the Isle of Wight Council to raise Ryde's residents concerns
- They are hopeful for a Neighbourhood Plan in future
- They aim to put colourful flags up along the harbour to attract more visitors although appropriate planning permissions would need to be sought
- They would like a young Ryde Society in collaboration with Network Ryde

8. To receive reports or questions from members of the public.

None

I would like to start by giving you some brief background information about the town council and then I will set out some of the successes it has had during 2018/19 along with some of the challenges we all continue to face.

Ryde Town Council is entirely independent of the Isle of Wight Council. It has 16 councillors representing 7 wards across Ryde, Binstead and Haylands. In 2018/19, the town council raised a precept (or local council tax) of £923,635 representing a Band D council tax at £114.70 for the year. Using this precept, the town council has provided a range of directly delivered services, contributed funding to ensure the continuation of many Isle of Wight Council led services and supported a range of other local initiatives and events.

The town council has used the precept to directly provide local services such as:

- A skatepark
- Decorative lighting and Christmas trees
- Funding support to a range of local events, such as Ryde Carnival
- Marketing projects such as the Town Map that promote Ryde as a unique tourist destination
- A beach safety and first aid service in the summer months.
- Funding support towards the town's countryside sites
- Summer and winter planting schemes
- The management of five allotment sites
- Ryde in Bloom
- The management and operation of four public toilets
- Beach cleaning and beach litter bins
- Network Ryde – a youth cafe at 147 High Street

The town council has listened to the community and has offered funding support to the IW Council to undertake enforcement activities at the town's 'eyesore' properties and has supported the IW Council's plans to improve safety and access in the lower part of the High Street. The council's Planning Committee has continued to be a strong voice representing the community on a range of planning, licensing and highways matters and has produced 'Planning for Ryde' – a strategic document for the future of the town that the IW Council has indicated could be adopted formally as planning policy for the town.

This year has seen the town continue to benefit from the town council's introduction in 2017 of a new service for young people in our town – under the umbrella of the 'Network Ryde' project. The cafe, at 147 High Street, provides a well-used, drop-in service for young people and the team has worked hard to also deliver a range of town wide activities aimed at reaching as many young people as possible, including the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, games activities at Eastern Gardens and the Waterside Pool



and many more. My sincere thanks to Cllr Tim Wakeley and all those partner organisations that have worked with the town council to ensure the continued success of this project.

Over the past year we have continued to forge links with a range of local organisations offering funding opportunities through our community and marketing programme, which has a budget of £42,000. We have also awarded grants to Citizens Advice, to help establish a Ryde local hub drop-in service, the Bus and Coach Museum, helping towards its 2018 Beer, Buses and Walks event, The IW Literary Festival Youth Programme and Ryde Sea Cadets. Funding towards sporting activities has included IW Beach Soccer for beach sports at Appley and the IW Synchronised Ice Skating Club. Support has also been given to Play Lane Millennium Green to extend footpaths, Friends of Appley and Ryde Business Association, for its Christmas in Ryde Event.

In the present financial year, annual substantial funding was agreed for Ryde Carnival and the New Carnival Company, Ryde Arts Festival and a three-year funding initiative for Aspire, totalling £45,000.

The council has also continued to be a key player in keeping the Waterside Pool and the nearby children's water play park open and will be making a one-off grant of £10,000 to the paddling pool this year to renew the play facilities there. We also recognise the value of our public realm and have set aside funding to enable town councillors to identify improvement projects around the town.

The council's public face can be found at Town Hall Chambers in Lind Street. From here, council staff are able to assist residents with a range of enquiries and to undertake projects and initiatives aimed at improving Ryde and maintaining its status as benefits the Island's largest town. We are also developing a role as a community hub, so residents can access a range of local advice and support services from organisations such as the Citizens Advice Bureau



As mentioned, the town council has also, for a number of years, supplied funding to enable the Isle of Wight Council to continue to provide a range of local services for the town that would otherwise have been lost. These include:

- Dedicated Ryde Environment Officers to deal with dog fouling, litter, fly posting and other environmental crimes – and we thank Katharine and Rob for all their hard work in this area.
- Funding for the maintenance of, and planting in, parks and community gardens.
- An increase in the emptying of bins along Ryde Esplanade and in Appley Park
- Funding for repairs and replacement of play equipment in the town's play areas.

Without this funding the public realm in Ryde, our public parks and our children's play areas would be visibly deteriorating.

and the NHS. We will shortly be contributing £20,000 to fund a new Community Connector post in the town aimed at helping our most vulnerable residents in their hour of need. We are, as an organisation, aiming to improve access to the council's services and are in the process of exploring how to make meetings more accessible to those in our community with sensory impairment.

Town councillors themselves undertake a range of ward work and sit on many local groups, such as the Age Friendly Island Initiative, the Ryde Access Advisory Forum Ryde Carnival Association, the Business Association, Action Groups and Residents' Associations and attend IW Council-led meetings about Ryde Regeneration. The council continues to be a vocal member of the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils.

As many residents will be aware, the town council has been keen to ensure the future of Ryde Harbour. Work is underway to explore whether it will be feasible for the town council to take on responsibility for the harbour. As we look to the future, the challenges Ryde Harbour presents will need to be met from within a public sector that continues to be squeezed and in which budgets need to be stretched even further.

I want to end the year on a positive note as I have been so proud to serve as Mayor and to represent Ryde at many events, including remembrance ceremonies, ribbon cutting and judging, shop openings and conferences. Highlights of my year have been my trip down the Ryde Slide, my involvement in Ryde Carnival and, of course, having a rescue cat named after me at Cats Protection!

I come to the end of my year in office believing we all have much to be proud of in Ryde and that the town council will continue to do all it can for the town, its residents, businesses and visitors.

Councillor Malcolm Ross
Mayor, Ryde Town Council
May 2019



ANNUAL REPORT

PREPARED FOR RTC ANNUAL TOWN
MEETING – MAY 2019

AIMS:

Encourage collaborative working: Support the joint working between businesses, organisations, individuals, and local authorities to help promote the growth and prosperity of the Ryde District.

Market Ryde: Develop the use of social media, local advertising and wider reaching marketing campaigns (where funding permits) to promote Ryde as a destination

Organise, Develop and carry out Events: Consider projects that will help to encourage visitors to the area, promote community collaboration, and contribute to the events calendar for the island.

Promote Businesses/Organisations Assist in advertising, and communicating the Ryde retail offer & local businesses Island wide and to tourist visitors.

Support Businesses/Organisations/Voluntary Groups: Offer support and encouragement to all businesses within the Ryde district. Offer advice within the remit of the association, and signpost to other professionals where needed.

Encourage independent small business: RBA will support preserving the town's independent businesses, ensuring that there continues to be a good variety of high street trade, and associated companies, and consider ways to ensure a strong high st presence into the future.

CONTACT

EMAIL:
info@rydebusinessassociation.org

Facebook: @RBAlseofWight
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Instagram: ryde_b_a

MEETINGS & COMMUNICATION

RBA held 15 meetings, a combination of evening and breakfast meets, to allow for specific agenda items to be discussed and explored. Meetings are open to all Ryde based businesses and organisations, and are free to attend.

68 separate businesses and organisations were represented at these meetings across the year.

Any business and organisation can ask to be added to the RBA database. This allows them to access minutes of meetings, and general information that is circulated. We currently have 252 businesses and organisations on the database, with active communication – ensuring that even when people cannot attend meetings, they can always be kept informed.

RBA has a growing social media following – accounting for close to 1,700 followers. This allows us to advertise and promote Ryde on a daily basis.

BUSINESS SUPPORT

RBA has specifically supported 5 new businesses in the last 12 months, offering support and guidance on promotion, business planning and trouble shooting.

RBA carried out 4 social media training events for businesses and organisations. 2 based around new users, and 2 considering ways social media can be used to build brands & attract customers.

COLLABORATIVE WORKING

RBA has been directly involved in the following consultations

Isle of Wight Council – Parking

Isle of Wight Council – Regeneration, including supporting ARC community consultation.

Natural England – Coastal Path development

EMSI Consulting on behalf of IWC – Higher Education provision – impact on business

People Powered on behalf of IWC – Walking and Cycling

Solent LEP – High St fund