



**MINUTES OF RYDE TOWN COUNCIL'S
ACQUISITION AND COMMERCIAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
HELD ON THURSDAY 17 JUNE 2021 AT 2.00PM
AT GARFIELD ROAD METHODIST CHURCH, RYDE**

Present: Cllrs Phil Jordan (Chair), Michael Lilley, John McLagan, Simon Cooke, Richard May, Jenna Sabrine

In Attendance: Liz Dutton (Minutes), Allan Bridges (Business Development Manager), Lisa Dyer (Clerk) (part)

3 Members of the public

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A member of the public asked a question about the purpose of the Committee. The Chairman responded and the Clerk confirmed that the Committee led on and managed the Council's acquisitions and commercial activities.

21/21 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Jordon was nominated and seconded for Chairman. There being no further nominations it was

RESOLVED:

That Cllr Jordan be elected as Chairman

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Cllr Cooke was nominated and seconded for Vice Chairman. There being no further nominations it was

RESOLVED:

That Cllr Cooke be elected as Vice Chairman

22/21 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Chapman

23/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations received at this stage

24/21 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None were received

25/21 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 March 2021 were reviewed.

RESOLVED:

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2021 were approved as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chairman.

26/21 MEMBERS QUESTIONS

Cllr Lilley asked for an update on Ryde Harbour. The Business Development Manager responded by saying there had been positive meetings held with IWC and matters relating to the re-siting of the harbour office, licensing issues and dredging were moving towards a resolution.

27/21 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference were noted.

28/21 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED:

That in accordance with Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s1 (2) and Standing Order no. 3(d), the public and press be temporarily excluded for the following items in view of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

Once the public had left the room the Chairman informed members he believed that some of these agenda items could be discussed in public and why some could not. A decision was taken to allow some of these items to take place in the public part of the meeting and the public re-entered the room.

29/21 UPDATE FROM THE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

An update was given regarding the planned activities and events for the summer on the beach and surrounding area and also the legal advice received regarding the possible formation of a CIC.

30/21 PHONE BOX, LIND STREET

Consideration was given to the report to adopt a phone box in Lind Street. There were a number of limitations outlined in the report namely the kiosk was listed and in very close proximity to windows of residential buildings. Members wished to consult the public on possible uses and the concepts of a tourist information point and having a dedicated help point were raised. Mention was also made of the kiosk being incorporated into the HAZ project.

RESOLVED:

That the Town Council undertakes consultation for possible uses for the phone box and for the adoption to proceed.

31/21 UPDATE ON DECKCHAIRS

The Business Development Manager gave an update on the deckchair concession. Planning consent for the storage container had been received and the container would be arriving in the near future. The final proof for the windbreak had been received. A quote had been obtained for some banners. The sun loungers had arrived but a large number had been damaged in transit. Orders for paddleboards and kayaks had been placed, uniforms were being looked into and insurance had been agreed. Training days for new staff were to be arranged. It was suggested that the original deckchair attendants be invited to any launch event. The Committee expressed their thanks to the Business Development Manager for taking forward this project.

32/21 STRATEGIC PLAN

Members were informed that IWC were pushing ahead with developing a strategic plan for the Island. It was noted that IWC held an asset register and this should be brought to a future Town Council meeting for opportunities to be discussed and explored in relation to assets held in the Ryde area. The Town Council were keen to progress the Memorandum of Understanding with IWC to minimise delay and costs to future projects. During the discussion the Chairman raised the matter of the feasibility study being carried out in relation to the Town Hall (Ryde Theatre) and it was agreed to form a task and finish group to meet with stakeholders and progress matters and report back to the Committee. The Business Development Manager was working on a strategy of work and projects for the Town Council and this would be considered at a future meeting.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That a Task and Finish group be established to move forward with the feasibility study and to meet with stakeholders for this purpose.
- (ii) That Cllrs Jordon and McLagan be elected to this task and finish group and to report back to members.

33/21 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED:

That in accordance with Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s1 (2) and Standing Order no. 3(d), the public and press be temporarily excluded for the following items in view of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

34/21 POTENTIAL CAR PARK PURCHASES

The committee were informed that one of these sites was no longer on the market. However if the site came back on to the market the matter would be reconsidered.

Consideration was given to the other site but after reviewing the purchase price together with possible income generation it was agreed that there was not sufficient return on investment to take the proposal forward at this time. The reports were noted.

RESOLVED:

Not to proceed with the proposal at the current time.

35/21 PURCHASE OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY FOR INVESTMENT PURPOSES

Consideration was given to the proposals set out in the report. The Committee confirmed its intention to become a provider of social housing in the long term to the proposal of using a third party to deal with the rental and other associated matters.

RESOLVED:

That proposals (i) and (ii) as set out in the report be approved.

36/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman informed members of the move to incorporate the terms of reference of this Committee into the Finance Committee at some point in the future.