



**RYDE
TOWN COUNCIL**

Note to all Councillors from the Town Clerks and RFO

Two Notices of Motions numbered 12/19 and 13/19 have been received and placed on the Council agenda for the meeting of the Full Council on Monday 2 December as per Standing Order 13 .

Prior to the publication of the agenda we attempted to seek clarification from the proposer on a number of matters contained with these motions. At the time of publication no response to this had been received. Following advice to us from the Society of Local Council Clerks we are now circulating this note so that all Councillors are fully aware of the following matters that we attempted to seek clarification about. (NB: The Mayor was informed of these enquiries and about the circulation of this note).

Notice of Motion 12/19

1. Clarification was sought about whether the proposed Committee would be a Standing Committee (SO29) or Advisory Committee (SO34) This is necessary as the status of the Committee will decide whether it will meet in public and what kind of delegated decision making authority it may or may not have. If it is to be an Advisory Committee, the decision making would remain with the Full Council. We also indicated that some of the suggested terms of reference could also be at odds with authority given to the RFO in the Councils Financial Regulations.
2. Subsequent to the above the RFO has also indicated that the establishment of CiC's, Trusts or similar organisations will have far reaching legal and financial implications for the Council. The current staffing structure has not got the capacity or expertise to accommodate the associated work and specialist financial legal advice would be required.

Notice of Motion 13/19

1. The Clerks advised the proposer that the previous Council decision relating to Ryde Town Hall/Theatre from October Full Council meeting is as follows:

This Council agrees to submit an Expression of Interest bid to the Heritage Horizons programme and take the lead, with the support of the Isle of Wight Council and local community groups, in continuing to explore all options for the future ownership, operations and management of the building.

The capacity of this Council to act as a community driver for this initiative needs to be assessed and resources put in place to ensure the success of the initiative and the well-being of staff. Any additional staff and resources should be put in place as a matter of some urgency with funds drawn down from our reserves, as required.

That given, the timescale for the submission that the content of the EOI, (circulated to councillors separately), be approved and signed off by the Mayor, Chair of Planning, and Vice Chair of Finance.

The Clerks were unclear whether the Notice of Motion submitted is seeking to rescind part of the above decision, as the wording on the Motion appears to suggest that Ryde Town Council is being asked to agree that the commencement of formal talks with the current owner for RTC to acquire Ryde Theatre/Town Hall. This would appear to perhaps be at odds with the above decision that seeks to explore all options for future ownership etc. If a rescission is being sought for part of the above decision then the proposer was advised that SO24 would apply.

2. The Clerks also reminded the proposer that following the above decisions, the EOI has been submitted and subsequently RTC have been informed that the progress of the Heritage Horizons Programme has now been delayed until after the General Election in December. Process wise, once RTC had received confirmation that we had been successful in the EOI process, it would seem that Council would then need to determine how to take forward the above resolutions. In light of this the Clerks suggested that it may be that Notice of Motion should perhaps reflect this position and establish a small working group (as Council did for Ryde Harbour) to take forward talks with the owner to provide an option for the future ownership, operations and management of the building prior to knowing the outcome of the EOI submission.
3. The Clerks also advised that the wording in the Notice of Motion implies the possible cessation of the lease in respect of 10 Lind Street Office and that this may need to be considered as part of the legal and budget implications contained within the Notice of Motion.

The Clerks and RFO also place on record in this note that they were not asked to provide any assistance or advice in the preparation of these Notices of Motion.