



RYDE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RYDE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, 1 JULY 2019 IN THE GARFIELD ROAD METHODIST CHURCH, GARFIELD ROAD, RYDE, ISLE OF WIGHT COMMENCING AT 7:00PM

<u>Present</u>	Councillors: Henry Adams, Charles Chapman, Diana Conyers, Julian Critchley, Nancy Farrell, Phil Jordan, Michael Lilley (Mayor), Karen Lucioni, Sue Lyons, Malcolm Ross, Ian Stephens, Lou Temel, Tim Wakeley and Wayne Whittle.
<u>In Attendance</u>	Saskia Blackmore, Clerk, Ryde Town Council Adrienne White, Clerk, Ryde Town Council (Minutes)
<u>Also Present</u>	Members of the Public Isle of Wight Councillor Vanessa Churchman Independent Arts – Hannah Griffiths and Kerry Tindall IW Council Director of Regeneration – Chris Ashman Chair, Ryde Regeneration Working Party – Zoe Thompson

	<p><i>Prior to the start of the meeting a Public Question Time was held for 30 minutes</i></p>
107/19	<p>APOLOGIES</p> <p>Apologies were received from Councillors Adrian Axford and Jim Moody.</p>
108/19	<p>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS</p> <p>Councillor Henry Adams declared a non pecuniary interest in agenda item 11 – as he has family who own businesses in the area of the event.</p> <p>Councillor Charles Chapman declared a non pecuniary interest in agenda item 11 as he is Chair of the Isle of Wight Council Licensing Committee and an application for the event had been submitted.</p>
109/19	<p>REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS</p> <p>There were no individual requests for dispensation.</p>
110/19	<p>MINUTES</p> <p>RESOLVED that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Monday 3 June 2019 be approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Mayor subject to an amendment prior to 106/19 - the insertion of 'Councillor Tim Wakeley left the meeting room'.</p>
111/19	<p>REPORTS</p> <p>Sgt Warne sent his apologies for the meeting. A police report had been circulated in response to questions raised prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Councillor Charles Chapman had recently sent a report to the Clerks and this was to be circulated to Councillors shortly.</p>
112/19	<p>MEMBERS' QUESTIONS</p> <p>Councillor Henry Adams asked when the Town could expect to see any further works undertaken on the Royal York Hotel, George Street, as it was a disgrace and not an attractive site for residents and tourists.</p> <p>The Mayor agreed and asked the Chair of Planning to raise this at the next Planning meeting.</p> <p>Councillor Wayne Whittle reported that an electrical company had been inside the Royal York rewiring rooms that were being refurbished to bring them up to the market expectations for a hotel. He also reported that the finished refurbishment would have 4 penthouse flats and be a hotel.</p>

Councillor Tim Wakeley raised concerns about a letter published in the Isle of Wight County Press titled 'Parish Councillors need to take back control' and mentioned the bully tactics of clerks around the Island and the breakdown of councillors and officers. Councillor Tim Wakerley expressed that this certainly had not been his experience in Ryde over the last 10 years and asked the Mayor to respond on this.

The Mayor reported that the letter had been discussed with the Clerks and Chairs of Planning and Finance Committee and that he will be sending in a letter of response to the Isle of Wight County Press. The letter will be circulated to all Councillors for information.

Councillor Tim Wakerley thanked the Mayor as he felt that not all Clerks should be tarred with the same brush and it was important that staffing team and Ryde residents be assured that the business of the Town council is being undertaken appropriately.

Councillor Lou Texel asked why it was that the public were excluded prior to the Ryde Harbour agenda item on the June Full Council.

The Mayor explained that the Expression of Intent being supplied to the Isle of Wight Council contained information, including a map of the area that is of interest to the Town Council in any negotiations going forward for Ryde Harbour. This would then have been available in the public domain and may not have been beneficial to the Town Council if the Isle of Wight Council decided to not make Ryde Town Council a preferred bidder in the process and continued on the open market.

Councillor Lou Texel asked who libel would be should any incidents occur on or around the boat currently sited on Ryde beach.

The Mayor replied that this fell under the Isle of Wight Council's remit.

Councillor Wayne Whittle reported that Island Echo had recently reported on the current situation. In addition, he reported that following the refusal of the Portsmouth Harbour Master to remove the boat the Isle of Wight Council were now taking out leaf proceedings to have the boat removed.

Councillor Ian Stephens asked for confirmation that the Mayoral Chain was adequately insured and that invitations for the Mayor to attend Civic events be circulated to all members of the Council.

The Mayor confirmed that adequate insurance was in place and that formal invitations were received by a member of staff who looks after the Mayor's diary.

Councillor Ian Stephens requested that Vectis Hall be added to the Planning Committee as another building in Ryde that needs to be kept in focus.

113/19	<p>The Mayor responded that Planning Committee had an ongoing list of concerns and that Vectis Hall was one of them.</p> <p>MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</p> <p>The Mayor previously circulated a report of all visits/events attended in June. In addition, the Mayor reported that following his attendance at the opening of John's Club, they sadly lost one of their most active members, Michelle Herbert-Smith. She was very much a part of the Official Opening event on the Friday and in fact had her hair shaved off to raise £400. She very sadly died going to an event on the Sunday. She will be missed as she was a real heroine, disability rights advocate and campaigner for disability and special needs rights and support. She died as an activist. She was full of joy and to the end fiercely lived independently.</p>
114/19	<p>REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS</p> <p>Councillor Diana Conyers previously submitted a report to the clerks' office and this had been circulated.</p> <p>Councillor Charles Chapman referred to the forthcoming circulation of the report mentioned within minute 111/19. In addition, he had been in touch with Island Roads to clean the Welcome to Ryde sign and was pleased to report that this had now been done.</p>
115/19	<p>INDEPENDENT ARTS</p> <p>A presentation was received from Hannah Griffiths, Project Manager, about the work carried out by Independent Arts and also about its community and school projects in Ryde.</p> <p>Councillors thanked Hannah Griffiths for her presentation and the excellent projects.</p>
116/19	<p>HIGH STREETS HERITAGE ACTION ZONES FUNDING</p> <p>Proposals were considered in respect of the Expression of Interest process for the High Streets Heritage Action Zones Funding bid contained within the letter received from Zoe Thompson, Chair of the Ryde Regeneration Working Party. Zoe Thompson and Chris Ashman, Director of Regeneration, Isle of Wight Council, were in attendance for this agenda item.</p> <p>Chris Ashman introduced the agenda item as a possible opportunity for Ryde funding to utilise and protect Heritage and tackle empty buildings. Should Ryde Town Council become the lead there would be a degree of responsibility and capital funding would be available to enhance the Town Council staff team to look after this project should the Expression of Interest (EOI) be successful.</p>

The EOI needs to be submitted by 12 July 2019 and the Regeneration Team were asking the Town Council to consider the proposals as set out in the letter received from Zoe Thompson.

Should the Town Council agree to become the lead organisation it was indicated that detailed proposals and a full commitment to funding would come at stage 2 should the EOI be successful.

In addition, Chris Ashman reported that the recent visit to the town by Historic England was a helpful coincidence and the information received from the specialist panel would be beneficial for the bid submission.

Zoe Thompson mentioned that successful projects elsewhere in the country were ones that emerged as a result of successful collaborate partnerships.

Councillor Malcolm Ross asked if the bid could include Monkton Street and Oakfield High Street.

Zoe Thompson responded that the core bid may be in respect of the High Street but in any later stages could benefit other parts of the town as well.

Councillor Julian Critchley asked what was available in the Town Councils Public realm budget.

Councillor Phil Jordan clarified the budget position, in that some of the £75,000 budget allocation is already allocated for other projects but that some of these projects may also be used as match funding in this bid. Councillor Jordan stated that the Town Council was not being asked to spend £100,000 funding at this stage.

Councillor Julian Critchley asked Chris Ashman what the Isle of Wight Council were prepared to commit.

Chris Ashman confirmed that if the EOI reached Stage 2 the Regeneration Programme would need to identify a contribution from its budget towards any scheme.

Councillor Julian Critchley asked how to bring the EOI into a democratic process.

Chris Ashman acknowledged Councillor Julian Critchleys point and stated that he would take advice from the two town councillors who sit on the Isle of Wight Council Regeneration Working Party on how to achieve this.

Councillor Ian Stephens expressed concern that he was unable to see where there is any scrutiny or accountability of the Regeneration Working Party and made mention that as elected members it was the Town Councillors that were the voice of the wider Ryde community. He also raised concerns that the EOI was currently a weak case and was not yet ready for submission to a major funding bid such as this. He noted that a key element missing from the current EOI submission was any evidence

of wider customer surveys other than the two organisations represented on the working group. He indicated that a paper should have gone through the Town Council to apply the necessary checks and balances to be able to utilise public funds.

Chris Ashman explained that if the Town Council were to become the lead body they would have to use Ryde Town Council's governance structures and would have an officer that would be accountable within those.

Isle of Wight Councillor Vanessa Churchman asked the Town Council to note that the Isle of Wight had just been awarded Unesco Biosphere Status and that should be included in any submission.

Councillor Michael Lilley agreed that this was a very pertinent point and was pleased that this and the Mardi Gras links provided Green credentials.

Councillor Tim Wakeley was grateful for colleagues' previous questions and clarified with Chris Ashman his understanding of what the town councils responsibilities would be should they become the lead body, including managing the project, ensuring governance undertaken through a group of partners, which may need to include Island Roads, and ensuring proper accountability, consultation and responsibility for having to work out costings.

Zoe Thompson clarified that the High Street would be the core part of any bid and that this would include addressing Star Street corner and accessibility issues and trying to improve the synergy and flow through the High Street.

After clarification had been sort by the Mayor a named vote was requested and

It was **RESOLVED** that the following three proposals as set out in the letter from Zoe Thompson, Chair of the Isle of Wight Council Regeneration Working Party be approved.

- **The Town Council support, in principle, the submission of the HSHAZ EOI.**
- **The Town Council be named as the lead applicant for the HSHAZ EOI.**
- **The Town Council agree the allocation from the public realm budget can be used to complete the scheme should the bid be successful. With initial funding of £60,000 in year 1, and a minimum of £15,000 in years 2 and 3 and £10,000 in year 4 if required. (Totalling £100,000 over a maximum of 4 years).**

For: Councillors Henry Adams, Charles Chapman, Diana Conyers, Nancy Farrell, Phil Jordan, Michael Lilley (Mayor), Karen Lucioni, Sue Lyons, Malcolm Ross, Ian Stephens, Lou Temel, Tim Wakeley and Wayne Whittle

Abstention: Councillor Julian Critchley

Chris Ashman then responded to two questions asked during Public question time.

- Why does the Inspiration Island Strategy differ to the Ryde Position Statement in terms of how the Esplanade is described.

Response: The intention is to move forward with a shared plan.

- Does the group behind the Smallbrook Ice and Leisure Centre (SILC) proposal include members of the Isle of Wight Council Regeneration team and how does this link with the fact that Ryde Arena has been identified as an empty building by regeneration.

Response: A reply would be given away from the meeting.

The Mayor asked that Chris Ashman please also put his replies in writing to the residents.

117/19

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 16 April and 28 May 2019 were received. Councillor Phil Jordan introduced the recommendations arising from the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 28 May 2019.

A: COMMUNITY GRANTS – IW PRIDE

After a lengthy discussion an amendment to the proposal was put forward and seconded for the grant funding amount to be reduced to £3500. Following a vote, this proposal fell, and the original proposal as recommended by the Finance Committee was voted upon and it was **RESOLVED that a grant of £7,000 be awarded to Isle of Wight Pride 2019 and for this amount to be taken from reserves.**

B: COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME CONSULTATION

It was **RESOLVED that the following be forwarded to the Isle of Wight Council in response to the attached Consultation on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme:**

‘That whatever decision the Isle of Wight Council takes, it also implements an effective, secure and fair process for the protection of those poorest and vulnerable to any proposed changes in the scheme.’

‘In addition, it would be appreciated that in any future consultations an indication of the number of households affected by proposed changes is communicated and that any support that is available is well publicised.

	<p>C: COMMUNITY CONNECTOR – TASK AND FINISH GROUP</p> <p>It was RESOLVED That Full Council note that the attached agreements with IWC and Aspire Ryde be signed and that, subject to any remaining due diligence, the first tranche of grant funding to Aspire of £20,000 be released.</p>
118/19	<p>NETWORK RYDE STEERING GROUP</p> <p>The notes of the Network Ryde Steering Group meeting held on 20 March 2019 were received.</p>
119/19	<p>PLANNING COMMITTEE</p> <p>The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 21 May 2019 were received.</p>
120/19	<p>NOTICE OF MOTION – 03/19</p> <p>Councillor Diana Conyers introduced the Notice of Motion in respect of the development of an operational strategy for the Town Council. At a workshop in November 2017 the Council agreed the following Vision Statement: ‘To support and enhance the health, wellbeing and economy of Ryde to the benefit of residents, local businesses and visitors within a culture that makes best use of our heritage and the beauty of Ryde’. In April 2018 the Council approved a Vision Paper, which identified key projects and services necessary to achieve this vision. However, in Councillor Conyers’ view this paper has not been enough to provide the policy framework needed to determine how the Town Council address the many needs, demands and opportunities with which the Council is currently faced. Constantly, Councillor Conyers believes that the Town Council is operating reactively rather than proactively and making decisions on an ad-hoc basis. Councillor Conyers summed up by saying that this paper has also not been enough to reconcile the inevitable diversity of views that exist within the Council.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that the Council prepare a comprehensive Operational Strategy to provide the policy guidance needed to ensure the effective use of its resources to achieve its Vision and to help reconcile the diversity of views within the Council. The Strategy should help the Council to make decisions on, among other things, prioritisation of competing needs and demands, direct versus indirect involvement in service provision, ownership of assets, revenue raising, and the working relationship between the Council and the community. It was also agreed that a workshop, attended by councillors and staff and facilitated by an external consultant, be held to kick-start the preparation of the Strategy.</p>

121/19	<p>NOTICE OF MOTION – 04/19</p> <p>Councillor Phil Jordan introduced the Notice of Motion in respect of the adoption of the red telephone box in Lind Street. BT have a current scheme of offering up certain BT phone kiosks for adoption by Parish and Town Councils. These boxes are iconic reminders of community street scenes for over 50 years. No longer in use as method of making telephone calls many Parish and Town Councils have already adopted and created libraries, art galleries and more within these boxes. Chillerton and Cowes are examples. Following discussion, it was suggested that this be agreed in principle but that this be referred to Finance Committee to identify the use and any associated costings for paint, insurance etc. Councillor Phil Jordan accepted this amendment to the motion and it was RESOLVED that the Town Council agree in principle to the current BT offer of taking over the phone kiosk in Lind Street, Ryde for the sum of £1 and that this be deferred to Finance Committee to identify a use and costings for paint, insurance etc before officers undertake the transfer from BT into the ownership of RTC under Leasehold or Freehold agreement.</p>
122/19	<p>NOTICE OF MOTION – 05/19</p> <p>Councillor Tim Wakeley introduced the Notice of Motion in respect of support for the proposed funding bid submission for the Smallbrook Ice and Leisure Centre.</p> <p>Council noted that the bid was in the early stages and that concerns already raised over accessibility to the site would need to be addressed. Councillor Michael Lilley informed Council that a Planning Application had been submitted to the Isle of Wight Council and would shortly come before the Planning Committee in the Town Council role as a statutory consultee.</p> <p>Councillor Tim Wakeley informed Council that any vote tonight would be taken without prejudice to that planning committee meeting.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that the Town Council support in principle the submission of a funding bid to Sport England for the proposed Ice and Leisure Centre at Smallbrook (SILC). Jasmine Sports, the charity leading on the development of the bid, is working with the Isle of Wight Council around the submission process and is also interested in discussing with the Town Council the feasibility of including skateboarding facilities at the venue. This would add to the diverse portfolio of activity opportunities they are seeking to make available to the Ryde community, many of these activities such as ice hockey and skating being especially interesting to young people. In addition, as colleagues will be aware the Network Ryde Steering Group is searching for ways to ensure the future of the Skatepark currently located at Ryde Esplanade and the Town Council acknowledged this opportunity and supported the Steering Group in taking forward these discussions and reporting these to Full council in due course.</p>

	<p>It was noted that the charity has offered to present its plans and proposals to Councillors.</p>
123/19	<p>VACANCY - FINANCE COMMITTEE</p> <p>Councillor Karen Lucioni was appointed to the Finance Committee following a recent vacancy.</p>
124/19	<p>VACANCY – RYDE IN BLOOM STEERING GROUP</p> <p>Councillor Malcolm Ross was appointed to the Ryde in Bloom Steering Group following a recent vacancy.</p>
125/19	<p>PAYMENTS</p> <p>RESOLVED that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Payments of those invoices shown on Appendix 1, totalling £16,018.64 be approved. ii. The payments shown on Appendix 2, which have been made under Standing Order 39 (b) and (c), either by online transfer or by cheque be noted.
126/19	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The date of the next meeting was agreed as Monday 2 September 2019 – Methodist Church, Garfield Road, Ryde.</p> <p>The Mayor asked that thanks be minuted to the Town Clerks for all their hard work.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 9:25pm.</p> <p>Signed.....Mayor/Chairman</p> <p>Date.....</p>