



## **RYDE TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RYDE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER 2019 IN THE GARFIELD ROAD METHODIST CHURCH, GARFIELD ROAD, RYDE, ISLE OF WIGHT COMMENCING AT 7:00PM**

<p><b><u>Present</u></b></p>	<p>Councillors: Adrian Axford, Henry Adams, Charles Chapman, Diana Conyers, Julian Critchley, Nancy Farrell, Phil Jordan, Michael Lilley (Mayor), Karen Lucioni, Sue Lyons, Malcolm Ross, Ian Stephens, Tim Wakeley and Wayne Whittle.</p>
<p><b><u>In Attendance</u></b></p>	<p>Saskia Blackmore, Clerk, Ryde Town Council Adrienne White, Clerk, Ryde Town Council (Minutes)</p>
<p><b><u>Also Present</u></b></p>	<p>Members of the Public Isle of Wight Councillor Vanessa Churchman IW Council Director of Regeneration – Chris Ashman Sgt Warne – North East Wight Neighbourhood and Prevention</p>

	<p><b><i>Prior to the start of the meeting a Public Question Time was held for 30 minutes</i></b></p> <p>The Mayor requested that Council considered bringing agenda item 14 forward as Mr Chris Ashman, Director of Regeneration at the Isle of Wight Council was in attendance should there be any questions regarding his letter to support the development of a Ryde Place Plan and agenda item 16 as the Notice of Motion was around Regeneration it was <b>RESOLVED that agenda item 14 and item 16 –be the next items of business after Reports.</b></p>
127/19	<p><b>APOLOGIES</b></p> <p>Apologies were received from Councillors Jim Moody and Lou Temel.</p>
128/19	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS</b></p> <p>Councillors Michael Lilley, Adrian Axford, Charles Chapman, Ian Stephens and Wayne Whittle declared a non-pecuniary interest in the agenda as they are Isle of Wight Councillors.</p>
129/19	<p><b>REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS</b></p> <p>There were no individual requests for dispensation.</p>
130/19	<p><b>MINUTES</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Monday 1 July 2019 be approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Mayor.</b></p>
131/19	<p><b>REPORTS</b></p> <p>It was noted that Councillors Charles Chapman and Nancy Farrell had recently sent a question to the police and both had received a response from Sgt Warne.</p> <p>Sgt Warne reported on the content of the questions he had received around drug and alcohol related incidents in Ryde. It was highlighted that the Isle of Wight has a high volume of drug related incidents at the moment.</p> <p>Through discussion it was reported that the Fiveways Shelter is an area of regular police patrol and that due to this there was a reduction in the drug and alcohol use in this location, however the patrols would not be sustainable, and it may be helpful for the Isle of Wight Council to look at alternative ways in which to enhance the shelter so that it could be more visible and open. Councillor Ian Stephens and Charles Chapman both agreed to liaise with the Isle of Wight Council and ask that they liaise with the Town Council about any joint funding approach for enhancement of the shelter.</p>

Councillors Julian Critchley and Nancy Farrell both said it must be noted that drugs are not a crime issue, but a public health issue and cuts in services are having a knock-on affect. Councillor Nancy Farrell reported that there were no drug treatment services in Ryde and these services were clearly missed. Locations are not problems it is the users that have the addiction and need accessible services. The Clerk reported that there had been some dialogue with the Isle of Wight Council over the past two years and would be pleased to hear of any future proposals.

Isle of Wight Councillor Vanessa Churchman entered the meeting room at 19:40

Sgt Warne reported that there was now a link with shopwatch through a mobile system and that specific team numbers had been made available. Councillor Vanessa Churchman and Ryde Town Council were pleased to hear that this link had been established.

132/19

#### RYDE PLACE PLAN

A letter received from Mr Chris Ashman, Director of Regeneration at the Isle of Wight Council asking Ryde Town Council to agree whether to both support the development of a Ryde Place Plan and to fund 50% of the anticipated cost of the Plan was considered. The receipt of the letter was referred to Full Council at a meeting of the Planning committee.

A representative from the Ryde Society was given the opportunity to speak before the debate on the item commenced and reported that the Ryde Society were very happy to support a Ryde Place Plan.

Councillor Diana Conyers introduced the agenda item and the previously circulated background paper that was provided for information.

Mr Chris Ashman indicated that he would be open to questions and reported that the process of the plan had already been ongoing, and the priorities of the town were already being looked at. Ryde Place Plan would be a reference document for the future wishes of the town.

Councillor Adrian Axford was pleased that a plan would involve stakeholders and make use of all the valuable work that the Town Council and the community had previously undertaken.

Councillor Julian Critchley asked how much did the Shaping Newport document cost and how was it funded?

Mr Chris Ashman reported that the cost was £25,000 and that this was funded by the Isle of Wight Council, Newport Parish Council, (as it was named then), and the Newport Business Association. Mr Chris Ashman reported that the Isle of Wight Council provided the majority of the funding.

Councillor Julian Critchley reported he was in favour of a Ryde Place Plan but was concerned about the governance and therefore indicated that the

governance should not be agreed upon until after the Notice of Motion which appeared next on the agenda.

The Mayor suggested that the Ryde Place Plan be separated from the governance arrangements as this could be debated after the Notice of Motion. This was agreed by Council

Councillor Tim Wakeley reported that he was not against the Ryde Place Plan but was unable to see the rationale for it. Time had previously been spent on the production of a Ryde Area Action Plan, that had then been scrapped by the Isle of Wight Council. Ryde Town Council completed a valuable piece of work in the Ryde Position Statement, which is in accordance with the Island Strategy and the Isle of Wight Council Planning have agreed it could be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document. Councillor Wakeley asked Mr Chris Ashman to clarify his understanding that should a Ryde Place Plan proceed that in no way could it contradict the Ryde Position Statement or the Island Strategy, nor could it be adopted so therefore what was the validity of a Place Plan?

Mr Chris Ashman nodded in agreement from the public gallery.

Councillor Wayne Whittle suggested that if it unlocked funding it should be done.

The Mayor summarised the discussion and following the earlier agreement to separate the governance arrangements

It was **RESOLVED to agree in principle to support the production of Ryde Place Plan and that the actual share of costs and budget be referred to the Finance Committee to determine.**

133/19 NOTICE OF MOTION – 06/19

A representative from the Ryde Society was given the opportunity to speak before the debate on the item commenced and expressed concern that this item was on the agenda as she felt that it excludes community groups.

A member of the public then took the opportunity to raise concerns about a councillor whose name was on the Notice of Motion.

The councillor protested at the point of view of expressed by that member of the public.

A disturbance in the public gallery then took place. The Mayor respectfully asked for those involved to stop disrupting the meeting. This did not happen and the Mayor then asked the member of public to leave the meeting. The member of the public refused to leave, and the Mayor indicated that the meeting would be adjourned for 5 minutes.

The meeting was readjourned at 20:08pm and concern was immediately expressed by Councillor Julian Critchley that the member of public that

seemed to have caused the disturbance was still present in the public gallery. The Mayor then asked again that the member of the public leave the meeting. The member of the public refused, and the Mayor indicated he would have to then close the meeting and then reconvene it at a later date should the member of public not leave. The member of public left the meeting room at 8:10pm.

Councillor Tim Wakeley introduced the Notice of Motion from Councillors Julian Critchley, Ian Stephens and Tim Wakeley in respect of the establishment of a Regeneration Working Party.

Councillor Tim Wakeley reiterated that the Notice of Motion was to bring the Working Party into Ryde Town Council, not to exclude community groups and that the working party would be able to work much more speedily.

Councillor Diana Conyers understood the rationale for this but asked for clarification around the relationship between the Isle of Wight Council and the Working Party be given. She also raised concern that the Notice of Motion pre-empted the planned RTC Councillor strategic workshop where it as hoped that any possible changes in the Town Council structure may be reviewed.

Councillor Tim Wakeley again reported that the Notice of Motion was an inclusive proposal to work with the Isle of Wight Council and community groups. The working party under the Town Council gave accountability to Councillors elected to represent all wards across Ryde.

Councillor Julian Critchley stated that he feels that the Town Council is the civic voice of Ryde, Councillors are accountable in a way that some members of the current regeneration group aren't. He also expressed concern that the current Isle of Wight Council Regeneration Working Party are making decisions about the possible future spending of Ryde Town Council's budget.

Councillor Michael Lilley stated that the Ryde Society and the Ryde Business Association, which are both represented on the Isle of Wight Council Regeneration Working Party both had constitutions and membership and so in his view do have accountability.

Councillor Adrian Axford indicated that it is important to include other interested parties when making decisions and he also made mention of those Ryde Town Council wards in which elections had not been contested.

Councillor Diana Conyers indicated that she had had a conversation with Mr Chris Ashman about widening the current membership of the Isle of Wight Council Regeneration Working Party to include other community groups and asked Mr Chris Ashman to agree that this would take place.

Mr Chris Ashman stated that extending the membership would be a matter for the Isle of Wight Council Regeneration Party to consider as membership fell within its remit.

Councillor Ian Stephens was pleased to have been elected since 2001 and urged others interested in representing the Town to stand for election in the future. He agreed that Ryde Town Council should lead, and community groups should be included as set out in the Notice of Motion. He stressed the importance of Ryde Town Councillors having a duty to the precept payers of Ryde that other groups do not have.

Councillor Sue Lyons agreed that Ryde Town Council should take the lead in the Ryde community.

Councillor Karen Lucioni asked who led the development of Shaping Newport Place Plan as she had been informed that Newport Parish Council had taken the lead?

Mr Chris Ashman stated that the Steering Group had oversight, of which Newport were a part.

The Mayor asked Ms Thompson, Chair of Ryde Business Association and Chair of the Isle of Wight Council Ryde Regeneration Working Party to speak from the public gallery.

Ms Thompson took the opportunity to mention the following

- The IWC Regeneration Working Group doesn't vote on how Ryde Town Council spend its money. They collate and present information in order for Ryde Town Council to make a choice.
- The Working Group put together the most recent funding bid for regeneration of the High Street as they have been pro-actively been undertaking this work as RTC hasn't done it, as they do not have the time or resources.
- This bid was worked up by herself, the Isle of Wight Council consultants and other members of the community as no one at RTC has the time and resources to do it.
- When RTC completed the previous bid, they did not consult anyone, and it was unsuccessful.
- Members of the Isle of Wight Council Regeneration Working Group are willing to volunteer their time to get things done.

Councillor Wakeley was then asked by the Mayor to sum up.

Councillor Tim Wakeley stated that he felt Ms Thompson had short changed the work that members and officers had achieved at the Town Council over the past 10 years. Councillor Wakeley stated that valuable work and community consultation had been achieved by Councillors and Officers. Councillor Tim Wakeley again made mention that the Notice of Motion was a fully inclusive paper.

**After a vote the Notice of Motion fell.**

	<p>Councillor Karen Lucioni left the meeting room at 20:46pm</p> <p>Councillor Nancy Farrell left the meeting room at 20:48pm</p>
134/19	<p><b>MEMBERS' QUESTIONS</b></p> <p>There were no members' questions</p>
135/19	<p><b>MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</b></p> <p>The Mayor previously circulated a report of all visits/events attended in July and August. In addition, the Mayor gave thanks to Ryde Town Council's Beach Safety team for the courage and bravery show by two of its members at the recent incident at Ryde Esplanade. He asked that this bravery be recognised by the Honours Working Party. Councillor Tim Wakeley supported the Mayor's comments and also thanked Vectis Boating and Fishing Club who were also involved. It was noted that Councillor Adrian Axford had thanked Vectis Boating and Fishing Club for their involvement when he had attended a recent presentation evening.</p> <p>The Mayor congratulated Goodleaf Tree Climbing, based in Ryde for being selected as 1 of 100 trail-blazing small businesses in the official count-down to Small Business Saturday, which will take place in Ryde on 7 December 2019.</p> <p>The Mayor was pleased to report that Ryde Carnival was a fantastic Carnival and had great community spirit. He gave special thanks to Councillor Malcolm Ross for the wonderful work he achieved behind the scenes.</p>
136/19	<p><b>REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS</b></p> <p>Councillor Diana Conyers previously submitted a report to the clerks' office and this had been circulated.</p>
137/19	<p><b>NETWORK RYDE STEERING GROUP</b></p> <p>The notes of the Network Ryde Steering Group meeting held on 29 May 2019 were received.</p>
138/19	<p><b>PLANNING COMMITTEE</b></p> <p>The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 11 June, 2 July and 23 July 2019 were received.</p>
13919	<p><b>RYDE THEATRE</b></p> <p>Councillor Diana Conyers (Chair of the Planning Committee) and Councillor Michael Lilley (Vice Chair of the Planning Committee) gave a report on a discussion held on 23 August 2019 with the owner of Ryde Theatre about the future plans for the building. Notes from this meeting</p>

were previously circulated. This was referred to Full Council at a meeting of the Planning Committee held on 13 August 2019.

The Mayor advised that the owner would like to see the theatre kept in the community and used for that purpose, he doesn't want it used for housing. The owner would like Ryde Town Council to have some sort of leadership role in looking at the options for the future of the building and any future possible funding.

Councillor Tim Wakeley noted that the notes from the meeting made mention of the Mayor suggesting that Ryde Town Council purchase the building and that he felt that this was not appropriate. Councillor Tim Wakeley asked What happens next?

The Mayor agreed that his comments had been inappropriate and suggested that Ryde Town Council welcome the relationship with the owner and refer the matter to the General Purposes Working Party to look at all the options and reffer the matter back to Full Council to consider all of the options.

After some further discussion, Councillor Phil Jordan indicated that he felt there is a range of ways in which property can be owned.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council support further investigation and that the General Purposes Working Party be asked to explore different options and funding opportunities for the future of Ryde Theatre and report back to Full Council.

140/19

#### GENERAL PURPOSES WORKING PARTY

Councillor Michael Lilley introduced the recommendations arising from the meeting of the General Purposes Working Party held on 28 August 2019.

Discussion took place around recommendation A: Anti Social Behaviour in Western Public Conveniences and it was noted that these recommendations had been forward by the police. Following an amendment to A (i) to add that this be a closure for a period of 6 months

It was **RESOLVED** that

#### A: ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN WESTERN PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

- i. **that the public toilets at Western Esplanade be closed from midnight each night in order to address anti-social behaviour and that the locking up process be undertaken by a security company that is on the Town Council's Preferred Contractors List for a period of 6 months.**
- ii. **that information signage be installed at Western Esplanade toilets in the first instance that advises on the location of local pharmacies where sharps can be carefully disposed of. The**

	<p>signage will need to be installed with the agreement of the pharmacies concerned.</p> <p>iii. that ongoing research be undertaken on ways that the Town Council can continue to address anti social behaviour in the town's public toilets.</p> <p>B: FACILITIES MANAGEMENT PLAN – 10 LIND STREET</p> <p>Full Council noted the Facilities Plan for 10 Lind Street.</p> <p>C: FACILITIES MANAGEMENT PLAN – 147 HIGH STREET</p> <p>Full Council noted the Facilities Plan for 147High Street.</p> <p>D: EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY POLICY</p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Equality and Diversity Policy be approved.</p>
141/19	<p>SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS 2019/20</p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the renewal of the Town Council's membership of the Society of Local Council Clerks for 2019/20 at a cost of £273.00 be approved.</p>
142/19	<p>PAYMENT BY DIECT DEBIT - MYPA</p> <p>Following a request from the Responsible Financial Officer, it was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Town Council set up a direct debit for the payment of MyPA invoices. MyPA undertakes the out of hours telephone reporting for the public toilets on behalf of the Town Council. (Financial Regulation 6.2 refers).</p>
143/19	<p>PAYMENTS</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that</p> <p>i. Payments of those invoices shown on Appendix 1, totalling <b>£39,484.14</b> be approved.</p> <p>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.</p>
144/19	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The date of the next meeting was agreed as Monday 7 October 2019 – Methodist Church, Garfield Road, Ryde.</p>

The meeting closed at 9:15pm

Signed.....Mayor/Chairman

Date.....