



RYDE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 3rd February 2020 at 7pm at The Methodist Church, Garfield Rd, Ryde, Isle of Wight.

Present: **Town Mayor** Cllr. Lilley
Councillors: Adams, Axford, Chapman, Conyers, Farrell, Jordan, Ross, Temel, Wakeley and Whittle.

In attendance: Locum Clerk for the meeting Tina Bailey, RFO and Acting Clerk Gareth Hughes, Planning Clerk Chris Turvey.
Mr Chris Ashman, IW Director of Regeneration and Mr Ian Lloyd, ARC Consulting.
35 members of the public.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Questions were raised on the following matters:

- Deck chair provision.
- Recording of public questions at council meetings.
- Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.
- Christmas lighting faults.
- The skatepark.

06/20 TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies received from Cllrs Lyons, Lucioni and Stephens.

07/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS
To receive any declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests
Cllr. Wakeley declared a pecuniary interest in minute no: item 9/20 Ryde Harbour.

08/20 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

1. To receive and consider granting any written requests for dispensations.
None
2. To note the General Dispensation granted to all members by the Town Clerks in respect of the setting of the 2020/21 budget and precept.

The Locum Clerk advised that this agenda item is invalid and explained that the introduction of the Localism Act in 2011 caused confusion regarding the granting of dispensations needed for the setting of the precept. In September 2013, the Department for Communities and Local Government (Openness and Transparency Guide for Councillors) clarified the matter through the publication of guidelines, which state explicitly that councillors do not need a dispensation to take part in the business of setting the council tax or precept.

09/20 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS

1. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December 2019

Amendment: Cllr. Temel advised that he had been present at the meeting and had voted in favour for minute no: 196/19 and 197/19, which has been omitted.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December 2019 with the amendment are approved and duly signed.

2. To approve the minutes of the Extra Ordinary meeting held on 17th January 2020.

Cllr. Wakeley stated that he had not had sight of the minutes prior to the meeting and abstained.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Extra Ordinary meeting held on 17th January 2020 are approved and duly signed.

10/20 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

None.

11/20 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESOLVED

That the Town Mayor's report is noted.

12/20 NOTICE OF VACANCIES

To note the resignation of Cllr. Critchley and Cllr. Moody and vacancies in Ryde West and Ryde North West wards. Should these vacancies proceed to election, to note that polling cards will be issued by the IW Council.

RESOLVED

That notice of vacancies is noted.

13/20 COMMITTEE VACANCIES

To fill the following vacancies:

- i. Finance Committee

RESOLVED

It is noted that all councillors are members of this committee.

- ii. Ryde Regeneration Working Group

Nominated: Cllr. Ross

Proposed by Cllr. Jordan and seconded by Cllr. Chapman.

RESOLVED

That Cllr. Ross is appointed to the Ryde Regeneration Working Group

- iii. Facilities and Assets Committee

- iv. Harbour Working Group

RESOLVED

That appointment to the Facilities and Assets Committee and Harbour Working Group are deferred until the councillor vacancies are filled.

Cllr. Wakeley left the meeting room prior to commencement of discussion of the next agenda item.

14/20 RYDE HARBOUR

To receive the high level viability study regarding Ryde Harbour to consider the recommendations arising from the Harbour Working Party meeting held on 27th January 2020.

- a) A Bathymetric Survey be commissioned at costs of around £1000 to evaluate the extent of dredging required in the Harbour.
- b) MDL prepare a business case which includes the proposed improvements outlined in the viability report, the dredging requirement, a schedule of works and the cost of any loan provision to finance the proposals.
- c) The business case be presented to the IW Council to formally confirm Ryde Town Council's expression of Intent.

The following amendments to recommendations b) and c) were submitted by Cllr. Jordan:

- b) MDL prepare a business case which includes the proposed improvements outlined in the viability report, the dredging requirement, a schedule of works and the cost of any loan provision to finance the proposals *at a cost of £5000.*

RESOLVED

That the amendment b) is agreed

- c) The business case be presented to the IW Council to formally confirm Ryde Town Council's expression of Intent *and move forward to acquisition.*

RESOLVED

That the amendment c) is agreed

It was noted that the report contained confidential matters which could not be discussed in public and that a more detailed financial report will be welcome and provide a better idea of financial outcomes.

It was proposed that all three recommendations with the amendments as printed, are approved.

RESOLVED

That the three recommendations with the amendments as printed are unanimously agreed.

- a) A Bathymetric Survey be commissioned at costs of around £1000 to evaluate the extent of dredging required in the Harbour.
- b) MDL prepare a business case which includes the proposed improvements outlined in the viability report, the dredging requirement, a schedule of works and the cost of any loan provision to finance the proposals at a cost of £5000.
- c) The business case be presented to the IW Council to formally confirm Ryde Town Council's expression of Intent and move forward to acquisition.

Cllr. Wakeley returned to the meeting at 7.45pm.

15/20 FINANCE COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 19th November 2019 and to consider any recommendations arising from the meeting held on the 21st January 2020.

RESOLVED

That the received minutes are noted

That the recommendation for a waiver request regarding the Town Council newsletter is approved.

16/20 PLANNING COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 26th November 2019 and to consider any recommendations arising from the meeting held on the 28th January 2020.

RESOLVED

That the received minutes are noted.

Recommendation: The final draft of the Ryde Place Plan was presented and Mr Ian Boyd of Arc Consulting and Mr Chris Ashman IWC Director of Regeneration, were invited to join the discussions. The plan is a live document. It has a lot to commend it and is welcomed. All contributors to the plan were thanked. Copies of the plan are available from the office and on the council's website.

It was proposed that the Ryde Place Plan be approved.

RESOLVED

That the Ryde Place Plan is unanimously approved.

17/20 2020/21 BUDGET AND PRECEPT

To consider and agree any recommendations in respect of the setting of the 2020/21 Budget and Precept arising from the meeting of the Finance Committee meeting held on 21st January 2020.

Recommendations:

- I. That the Town Council sets a precept to balance the budget as contained in Appendix A. To include a budget line for the provision of new services and to provide reserves of £180000 as at 31st March 2021 whilst maintaining a Band D Council Tax at its present sum of £137.36 per annum for the 2020-21 financial year.
- II. That the Band D Council Tax for 2020-21 based on the above set at £137.36 representing no increase on that for the 2019-20 financial year.

RESOLVED

That the budget and precept as presented for 2020/21 are unanimously accepted.

18/20 NOTICE OF MOTION 04/20

To formally request that the council instruct the internal auditor to undertake a review of the council's recent handling of staff matters and approve associated costs. Proposed by Cllr. Wakeley and seconded.

The following amendment was proposed by Cllr Jordan:

This Council instructs the Acting Clerk to commission the Independent Auditor to undertake, as a matter of urgency, a thorough review of the council processes (not the outcomes) that were employed throughout December (2019) and January (2020) which led

to the termination of employees contracts. The findings of the Independent Auditor to be made known to councillors and to the wider public (except where matters of confidentiality pertain).

Cllr. Wakeley withdrew his motion in favour of the amendment.

RESOLVED

That the amendment is agreed.

19/20 NOTICE OF MOTION 05/20

Withdrawn

20/20 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

In view of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded for the following item and they are instructed to withdraw in accordance with Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s1 (2).

RESOLVED

That in view of the confidential nature of the staffing business to be discussed, that the public and press be temporarily excluded for the following item and are instructed to withdraw in accordance with Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s1 (2).

21/20 MINUTES OF THE CONFIDENTIAL MEETING

To approve the minutes of the confidential meeting held on 17th January 2020

Cllr Wakely requested the vote be recorded.

For: 9 members

Against: Cllr Adams and Wakeley voted against.

RESOLVED

The minutes of the confidential meeting held on 17th January 2020 are approved and duly signed.

22/20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date: Monday 2nd March 2020

Location: Methodist Church, Garfield Road, Ryde.

The Mayor closed the meeting at 20.35

Mayor.....

2nd March 2020