



## **RYDE TOWN COUNCIL**

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

<b><u>Present</u></b>	Councillors: Adrian Axford, Henry Adams, Charles Chapman, Diana Conyers, Nancy Farrell, Phil Jordan, Michael Lilley (Mayor), Karen Lucioni, Jim Moody, Malcolm Ross, Ian Stephens, Lou Temel, Tim Wakeley and Wayne Whittle.
<b><u>In Attendance</u></b>	Saskia Blackmore, Clerk, Ryde Town Council Adrienne White, Clerk, Ryde Town Council (Minutes)
<b><u>Also Present</u></b>	Members of the Public

	<p><b><i>Prior to the start of the meeting a Public Question Time was held for 30 minutes</i></b></p>
185/19	<p><b>APOLOGIES</b></p> <p>Apologies were received from Councillors Julian Critchley and Sue Lyons.</p>
186/19	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS</b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
187/19	<p><b>REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS</b></p> <p>There were no individual requests for dispensation.</p>
188/19	<p><b>MINUTES</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Monday 4 November 2019 be approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Mayor.</b></p>
189/19	<p><b>REPORTS</b></p> <p>Sgt Warne sent his apologies for the meeting. A report from Sgt Warne had been submitted to the clerks' office and this been circulated.</p> <p>Councillor Tim Wakeley reported that the multi gency event mentiioned in the circulated police report referred to the world café event that he and Councillor Karen Lucioni had both recently attended. This evene was a community engagement activity in tune with the regeneration of the town. The world café were looking to open communication, work in partnership and the town council were already well connected with the event. It is hoped that there may be a presentation to a council meeting early next year.</p> <p>Councillor Charles Chapman asked if there had been any further progress with information around the Fiveways Shelter. Councillor Ian Stephens informed Council that the IWC Conservation Officer had now passed on his views and the IWC were considering all options that would be passed onto the Town Council via a formal letter with costings for Members to consider at a future meeting.</p>
190/19	<p><b>MEMBERS' QUESTIONS</b></p> <p>Councillor Karen Lucioni asked if the Town Council were yet the preferred bidder as she had viewed an article suggesting that in in the media recently. Councillor Phil Jordan replied that the IWC were due to take that decision sometime this week.</p>

191/19	<p><b>MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</b></p> <p>The Mayor previously circulated a report of all visits/events attended in November and provided a list of all events and activities scheduled for December.</p> <p>The Mayor gave thanks to the contractors who had worked in rainy conditions to ensure the festive decorations for the Town could be illuminated on time. The Town Council were receiving many compliments for the display.</p> <p>The Mayor reported that Town Budget Consultation event was scheduled for Thursday 5 December from 3-6pm and that there was also late night shopping that evening..</p>
192/19	<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> <p>Councillor Tim Wakeley tabled a report and gave an update on Network Ryde. He was pleased to report that funding had been secured through the IW Community Safety Partnership to support the recruitment and initial training of at least two part-time youth workers to establish an initial one year pilot scheme for outreach work with 'at risk' young people on the streets of our Parish. Working with the University of Portsmouth School of Education and Sociology an outline proposal for youth work training for the 'Street Youth Workers' has been submitted. The idea of outreach work was originally discussed at a PACT meeting in Januray 2018 with Councillors Ian Stephens and Wayne Whittle and now at last we have the infrastructure and resources to support such an initiative together with an experienced training partner of the highest calibre.</p> <p>Councillor Michael Lilley agrred that this was wonderful news and thanked Councillor Tim Wakeley and the Network Ryde team for the work that had been achieved.</p> <p>Councillor Michael Lilley asked if there was any update on the proposed visit of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Councillor Tim Wakeley reported that at a recent conference, the police commissioner had indicated that he may visit early in the new year as he sadly was unable to attend in November as previousl planned.</p>
193/19	<p><b>PLANNING COMMITTEE</b></p> <p>The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 15 October 2019 were received.</p> <p>Councillor Diana Conyers introduced the recommendations arising from the meeting of the Planning Committee meeting held on 26 November 2019. Councillor Dianan Conyers explained that the Planning Committee had agreed in principle to add the Ryde Society to the membership for the</p>

HAZ Project Steering Group but she explained that Historic England had advised that should other community groups approach the Project Steering Group and ask to join, that the Ryde Society may have to move into the consultation forum that was being proposed. The Chair of the Planning Committee noted that the Ryde Society had written directly to Historic England about this matter and had been aware of Historic Englands view that the Project Steering Group should not increase any further.

Councillor Diana Conyers proposed an amendment to recommendation(ii), which was seconded and agreed. It was **RESOLVED that**

- i. **The Draft Programme design for the Ryde High Street Historic Action Zone (HAZ) bid be noted by the Town Council prior to submission to Historic England.**
- ii. **no additional funding be awarded but that the Town Council confirm the requirements for a Senior Project Officer to be employed by the Isle of Wight Council for the exclusive use of the Ryde HAZ and this be included in the Programme Design.**
- iii. **the Town Council agree in principle to the establishment of the Ryde HAZ Project Steering Group with the following membership:**  
  
**2 x Historic England representatives**  
**2 x RTC representatives**  
**2 x IWC representatives**  
**1 representatvie from Island Roads**  
**1 representative from Ryde Business Association**  
**1 representative from Ryde Arts CIC**  
**1 representative from Ryde Society**
- iv. **it be noted that the proposed RTC representative members of the Project Steering Group be determined by the Full Council at a later date and that a terms of reference for the Project Steering Group, prepared by the Project Steering Officer, will come to Full Council and the Steering Group for approval.**
- v. **it be noted that the Project Steering Group will become active once stage 3 of the HAZ project os underway and Project Officers are in post.**

194/19

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Finanace Committee meeting held on 22 October 2019 were received.

Councillor Phil Jordan introduced the recommendations arising from the Finance Committee meeting held on 19 November 2019 and it was **RESOLVED that**

- **the Town Council make a funding contribution of £10,165 in 2020/21 to the Isle of Wight Council's Ground Maintenance**

	<p><b>Contract for the maintenance of community parks and open spaces.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>the Town Council make a funding contribution of £26,400 in 2020/21 to the Isle of Wight provision of summer bedding plants.</b></li> </ul>
195/19	<p>FACILITIES AND ASSET MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE</p> <p>Councillor Karen Lucioni introduced the recommendation arising from the inaugural meeting of the Facilities and Asset Management Committee held on 19 November 2019 and it was <b>RESOLVED that terms of reference for the Facilities and Asset Management Committee be approved.</b></p>
196/19	<p>NOTICE OF MOTION – 12/19</p> <p>Councillor Phil Jordan introduced his Notice of Motion in respect of the creation of an Acquisition and Commercial Management Committee.</p> <p>Councillor Phil Jordan referred to the Local Government Associations (LGA) advice on commercialisation and how the Town Council could benefit from this.</p> <p>Councillor Ian Stephens asked Councillor Jordan why he was referring to the LGA as the LGA does not generally support the Town and Parish Council sector. He made mention of efforts that had been made previously by the IWC to travel in this direction. Councillors Ian Stephens indicated that he felt the Town Council needed to take legal and financial advice before pursuing this course of action. He also asked for clarification around what type of committee this was to be and where the resources were coming from to take it forward. He suggested that this Notice of Motion be deferred so that the clerks could seek additional legal and financial advice.</p> <p>Councillor Adrian Axford supported the new committee as he felt that the forthcoming projects the Town Council were considering needed the operations of the Town Council to be more professional and looking for ways of reducing the burden on the precept payer through commercialisation needed to be considered.</p> <p>Councillor Malcolm Ross asked whether the new committee be effective immediately or in 2021? Councillor Phil Jordan indicated that it could be either this year or next year.</p> <p>Councillor Wayne Whittle reported that this had to be put through and agreed or how else would Ryde Town Council be able to charge for the Harbour or the Ryde Town Hall/Theatre.</p> <p>Councillor Diana Conyers supported the establishment of this committee although would have rather the discussion around the future of RTC had taken place via a workshop that she had previously suggested at an earlier meeting.</p>

Councillor Tim Wakeley expressed concern that the Notice of Motion had been put before the Town Council when it does not have the same powers as principal authorities in terms of economic well being. He also expressed concern that the proposer had appeared not to have sought proper advice from Town Council officers.

Councillor Ian Stephens then proposed that the agenda item be deferred. So that the Town Council could seek both legal and financial advice and the matter be brought back to Full Council in February 2020. This was seconded by Councillor Tim Wakeley. The amendment was put to the vote and fell.

The original Notice of Motion was voted upon. Councillor Ian Stephens asked for a named vote. It was **RESOLVED to create an Acquisition and Commercial Management Committee with the terms of reference as set out on the Notice of Motion.**

**Councillors Adrina Axford, Charles Chapman, Diana Conyers, Nancy Farrell, Phil Jordan, Michael Lilley, Malcolm Ross and Wayne Whittle - For**

**Councillors Henry Adams, Karen Lucioni, Jim Moody, Ian Stephens and Tim Wakeley - Against.**

Councillor Karen Lucioni asked if all Members had received the note previously circulated by the Clerks and the Responsible Financial Officer in respect of procedural advice for this agenda item and for agenda item 13. The Mayor confirmed that the note had been received. Councillor Karen Lucioni asked that it be minuted that the procedural advice provided had been ignored, A copy of the advice note can be found on the Town Council's website.

197/19 NOTICE OF MOTION – 13/19

Councillor Phil Jordan introduced his Notice of Motion in respect of the commencement of formal talks with the current owner to acquire Ryde Town Hall subject to market valuation and all necessary required reports.

Councillor Phil Jordan thanked colleagues for unanimously voting to submit an Expression of Interest to the Heritage Horizons Lottery Fund in respect of Ryde Town Hall/Theatre. He noted the decision of Full Council to lead on the project and support the IWC and Community Groups to explore all options for the future ownership, operations and management of the building. He explained that the Expression of Interest stage had currently been placed on hold due to the pre election period and that the Town Council were likely to hear if they had been successful in reaching the presentation stage by the end of December/beginning of January 2020. Councillor Phil Jordan informed Council that should we reach the presentation stage for the bid the Town Council would need to prove ownership of the building. He told Council that an exchange of contracts with a long completion date could be achieved and that the owner of the

building would be agreeable to this subject to a market valuation and condition report. In light of this Councillor Jordan postulated that the Town Council enter negotiations with the owner of the building around acquiring the Town Hall/Theatre.

Councillor Jim Moody left the meeting room at 8:20pm and gave his apologies for doing so to the Clerk to pass to the Mayor.

Councillor Tim Wakeley asked why the views of the Town Council officers were not sought for this Notice of Motion? Councillor Phil Jordan responded that the motion was following Heritage Horizons fund parameters and that it was presented to the Town Clerks for inclusion on the agenda.

Councillor Wayne Whittle said it was common sense to agree a deal with the theatre owner before getting any funding.

Councillor Ian Stephens was concerned that another Motion had come before Council without any prior discussion and without any procedural advice being sought from Town Council officers. Councillor Ian Stephens reported that he had not had the pleasure of ever meeting the current owner of Ryde Town Hall/Theatre. However, he had been speaking to the Isle of Wight Council Planning department and reported that the IWC has sent a letter to the current owner of the building in respect of remedial works required under planning legislation but the owner had not responded within required timescales. It is likely that the IWC Legal team will now be taking forward legal proceedings and the Town Council should be aware of the implications of this when considering this Notice of Motion.

Councillor Adrian Axford commented that the state of Ryde Town Hall/Theatre is his most complained about issue in his electoral ward.

Councillor Ian Stephens asked for a named vote on this item.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council commence formal talks with current owner to acquire Ryde Town Hall/Theatre subject to market valuation and all necessary required reports.

**Councillors Adrina Axford, Charles Chapman, Diana Conyers, Nancy Farrell, Phil Jordan, Michael Lilley, Malcolm Ross and Wayne Whittle - For**

**Councillor Tim Wakeley - Against**

**Councillors Henry Adams, Karen Lucioni and Ian Stephens - Abstained.**

198/19	<p>NOTICE OF MOTION – 14/19</p> <p>Councillor Lou Temel introduced his Notice of Motion in respect of the creation of a review panel to review and report on Standing Orders and Council operation and function.</p> <p>Councillor Lou Temel apologised for the appearance of his Notice of Motion but had assumed it would be typed up before being presented to the Council.</p> <p>The Clerk apologised for this oversight and had not realised that this was Councillor Temels wish as he had provided a signed Notice of Motion.</p> <p>Councillor Lou Temel indicated that the Town Council was no longer a Parish Council but a ‘Mini Metropolitan Authority’ and he felt it was quite clear that the Town Council is at a knife edge regarding the provision of services. He recognised that certain parts of the Councils Standing Orders are statutory obligations but others parts can be looked at and this might cut out the nonsense of different interpretations. He asked why review was not endemic in Town Council culture.</p> <p>Councillor Ian Stephens tabled an amendment to the Motion in order to provide more clarity, a solid base and be inclusive of the people that Ryde Town Council pay a salary to. The amendment was seconded and voted upon and fell.</p> <p>The Council then voted on the original Motion and it was <b>RESOLVED that a review panel be formed to review and report on current Standing Orders and Council operation and function.</b></p> <p>The Notice of Motion indicated that the review panel will be an advisory committee under Standing Order 34 and its membership will comprise of the Chairs of the Town Council’s three Standing Committees and the proposer.</p> <p>Councillor Nancy Farrell left the meeting room at 8:50pm</p>
199/19	<p>PAYMENTS</p> <p><b>RESOLVED that</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <b>Payments of those invoices shown on Appendix 1, totalling £7,130.85 be approved.</b></li> <li>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.</li> </ul>

200/19

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Monday 3 February 2020 – Methodist Church, Garfield Road, Ryde.

The meeting closed at 8:55pm

Signed.....Mayor/Chairman

Date.....