



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS

7PM

12 DECEMBER 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors: Jason Mack (Chair), Leigh Geddes, Tony Marvin, Jim Toogood, Delian Backhouse-Fry, Ken Knapman.

No. SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

- a) There were eight members of the public present.
- b) Wendy Marshall commented on the removal of some bags of rubbish and said that although grass cutting at North Street Playground was generally good, there were some spaces that had been missed and the steps at the back needed treated.
- c) She concluded by reporting that she had been invited to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.
- d) Sue Stephens pointed out the injury she had received when tripping on the High Street pavement and said she felt it was due to its condition and its narrowness. She offered a risk assessment with the recommendation for railings to be installed and asked that the Council propose that to Island Roads.
- e) Councillor Jim Toogood said that the matter would be added to the Agenda of tomorrow's Public Buildings Working Group.

164/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Steve Stubbings, Ed Gouge, Harry Rees and Brian Lucas.

165/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Leigh Geddes Declared an Interest in respect of Agenda item 6.

166/16 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 14 November 2016, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meeting of 7 December 2016 were noted.
- c) The Minutes of the Partnership Library Steering Group meeting of 8 November 2018 were noted.

167/16 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance report for this meeting (83/16) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 30 November 2016 and a list of all payments made during November 2016.
- b) Also included was a listing of budget variances for the first eight months of the financial year.

It was unanimously agreed that:
the Finance Report be accepted.

168/16 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

- a) A proposed Partnership Agreement for the management of the areas for which the Town Council has taken on responsibility for grounds maintenance was attached to Report 84/16 for this meeting.
- b) The Report also included details of the cost adjustments for the Town Council's contract with John O'Conner Landscaping as agreed with the Public Buildings Working Group.
- c) Councillor Leigh Geddes welcomed the recognition in the agreement of the contribution of voluntary organisations.

It was proposed by Councillor Tony Marvin, seconded by Councillor Jim Toogood and unanimously resolved that the Town Council:

- i) accepts the Partnership Agreement for the management of the grounds maintenance areas for which it is responsible;
 - ii) notes the adjustments to the current contract for its grounds maintenance responsibilities; and
 - iii) welcomes the Isle of Wight Council's continued funding of Ventnor Park.
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169/16 SPRING HILL GARDEN

- a) A draft Heads of Terms for a 30-year lease enabling the Town Council to manage Spring Hill Garden and the adjacent paved area had been previously circulated to Members with Report 85/16.
- b) It had been agreed by the Public Buildings Working Group subject to an adjustment to the proposed break period.
- c) Councillor Jim Toogood said that some initial drawings for the development had been done on a pro bono basis by Neil Geddes.
- d) Councillor Delian Backhouse-Fry welcomed the ongoing development of significant features in the Town Centre.

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Ken Knapman and unanimously resolved that the Town Council:

accepts the Heads of Terms as the basis of a draft lease subject to further discussion with the Isle of Wight Council about the proposed break clause.

170/16 PUTTING GREEN RISK ASSESSMENT

- a) Members considered a draft Risk Assessment for the Putting Green prepared by the Town Council's Economic Development Officer and previously circulated with the papers for the meeting.
- b) The professional approach adopted was noted and welcomed.

It was proposed by Councillor Leigh Geddes, seconded by Councillor Jim Toogood and unanimously resolved that:

the Town Council adopts the Risk Assessment for the Putting Green as drafted and asks staff to implement it accordingly.

171/16 BUTTERFLY PROJECT

- a) A plan for the area required to enable the Town Council to progress the Natural England Project to develop an area of the Bonchurch revetment for the benefit of the Glanville Fritillary Butterfly and a Licence to Occupy were included with Report 87/16.
 - b) Councillor Leigh Geddes provided the details of the project as planned pointing out that the area is already a home for the Butterflies that can also be accessed by the public.
 - c) Councillor Ken Knapman said that he really welcomed this significant conservation project,
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It was proposed by Councillor Leigh Geddes, seconded by Councillor Delian Backhouse-Fry and unanimously resolved that the Town Council:

accepts the Licence to Occupy for the area of the Bonchurch revetment shown on the plan attached to it and confirms its support for the project.

172/16 HEALTH AND WELLBEING ADVOCATES PROJECT

- a) Report 88/16 provided an update on the Health and Wellbeing Advocates Project for which the Town Council has a lead role.
 - b) The Mayor explained the development of the project for engaging Town and Parish Councils with the My Life a Full Life Programme and reported on the first meeting of the Advocates for Health and Wellbeing services in the South Locality appointed by 11 of the 13 to date.
 - c) He referred to the Town Council's Community Development Officer's role as Lead Officer for the Project and his consequent membership of the Locality Management Group.
 - d) Councillor Ken Knapman welcomed this as another important development.
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173/16 PIGEON SURVEY

- a) Concern about the damage to the town's retail area from Pigeons and the associated health and safety risks had prompted a survey of the traders in the area by the Town Council's Economic Development Officer.
 - b) The findings of the Report were attached to Report 89/16.
 - c) Councillor James Toogood congratulated the Town Council's Economic Development Officer Nick Cox on the quality and value of the Survey. He went on to say that contact had now been made with the owner of the Bus Station as that is a major source of the experienced nuisance.
 - d) Councillor Delian Backhouse-Fry suggested that Amey be asked for advice on Pigeon control and that Southampton City Council would be worth contacting as they had dealt effectively with the same issue.
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174/16 ISLE OF WIGHT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (IWALC)

Councillor Ken Knapman reported that the issue of changes to the organisation's constitution had been deferred until next year post-elections; and that he had been able to get the Sustainability and Transformation Plan on the agenda for January meeting.

175/16 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

- a) The Town Clerks' report – 82/16 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions at this time.
 - b) It included information on Public Toilets, Local Area Coordinators, Working Groups, Assets of Community Value and the Isle of Wight Council's 2017/18 Budget.
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PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

176/16 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

In view of the confidential nature of the following item:
it was resolved under the Public Bodies Admissions to Meetings (1960) Act: to exclude the Public and Press whilst the next item is under discussion as it is of a confidential nature.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.25PM

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE
