



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS 7PM

8 OCTOBER 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors: Stewart Blackmore (Chair), Tony Marvin, Leigh Geddes, James Toogood, Brian Lucas, Dave Logan, Billy Hill, Delian Fry, Stephen Cockett, Ian Bond

NO. SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present. County Councillor Gary Peace was present at the meeting.

107/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jason Mack.

108/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Mayor declared an interest in item 9 of the Agenda for this meeting.

109/18 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 10 September 2018, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meetings of 12 September 2018 and 3 October were noted.

11 0/18 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance report for this meeting (90/18) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 30 September 2018 and a list of all payments made during September 2018.
- b) Also included was a listing of budget variances during the first six months of the financial year.

It was proposed by Councillor Leigh Geddes, seconded by Councillor Tony Marvin and unanimously resolved that:
the Finance Report be accepted.

111/18 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN

- a) A copy of the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2017/18 was attached to Report 91/18 for this meeting.
- b) The Report noted that the document had been returned by the Town Council's new External Auditor too late to be published by the statutory deadline of 30 September but was now displayed on the Noticeboard and web site.
- c) It was also noted that other Town and Parish Councils on the Island and on the Mainland had experienced the same delay in the return of the document from the Auditors.

It was proposed by Councillor Tony Marvin, seconded by Councillor James Toogood and unanimously resolved that:

- i) the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2017/18 be accepted and its contents noted; and
- ii) the Clerk be authorised to submit a formal complaint about the delay in the completion of the External Auditor's report.

112/18 FIRST AID HUT LEASE

- a) A copy of the draft lease supplied by the Isle of Wight Council based on a ten year term occupancy of the First Aid Hut was attached to Report 92/18.
- b) The draft lease had been considered by the Town Council's Assets and Services Group and, subject to a small number of minor amendments, the Group was content to recommend the Town Council to accept it.

It was proposed by Councillor Leigh Geddes, seconded by Councillor Tony Marvin and unanimously resolved that:

subject to a satisfactory conclusion in respect of the items highlighted by the Assets and Services Group the duly amended lease be adopted and its signature authorised.

113/18 COMMUNITY LED HOUSING PROGRAMME

- a) Report 93/18 provided an update on progress with the Town Council's two applications to the Community Led Housing Programme for funding for Feasibility Studies in respect of its projects for the development of the Ventnor Central and Upper Ventnor sites.
 - b) The Clerk and Councillor James Toogood reported on the informal meetings held with the two Island-based providers of Feasibility Study services.
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114/18 VENTNOR HAVEN

- a) Concerns had been expressed to Councillor James Toogood by Cheetah Marine's Sean Strevens about facilities for the now essential repairs to the seaweed collecting craft together with a request for the Town Council's assistance, Report 94/18 refers.
- b) Councillor James Toogood explained the details of Cheetah Marine's problems with securing the necessary space to carry out the repairs.
- c) At the invitation of the Mayor County Councillor Gary Peace told the meeting that he would be having a meeting at County Hall about the Haven on Thursday.
- d) Councillor Delian Fry commented on the cost of the latest Report the Isle of Wight Council had commissioned on the seaweed problems
- e) Councillor Brian Lucas asked if a copy of the report would be provided to the Town Council and the Clerk confirmed that he had been told that would happen once it had been formally accepted by the Isle of Wight Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Leigh Geddes, seconded by Councillor Tony Marvin and unanimously resolved to:

establish a working group of the Clerk and Councillors James Toogood and Brian Lucas to meet with Cheetah Marine's Sean Strevens to discuss the details of the present situation and, subsequently, contact the Isle of Wight Council to provide support for progressing the issue.

115/18 BOUNDARY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

- a) The Chair was taken by the Deputy Mayor for this item and the Mayor made no contribution to the discussion of it.
 - b) A copy of the Boundary Commission's recommendations for amendments to the Island's Wards for County Council elections was attached to Report 95/18.
 - c) It was noted that the recommendations are published for consultation with responses invited until 12 November.
 - d) Councillor Ian Bond said that multi-member wards work well but wondered if that is the best solution where one of the two proposed areas for inclusion in the new Ventnor & Wroxall Ward is much larger than the other.
 - e) The Deputy Mayor said that he believed direct accountability of an individual councillor to a specific area is always more satisfactory.
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- f) Councillor Brian Lucas commented that he thought the combination could be a positive development as it would bring the two areas closer together.
 - g) Councillor Ian Bond added that he thought it difficult to argue for a change to the outer boundary but there may be a case for dividing it internally.
 - h) Councillor Stephen Cockett said that it would be important to avoid an arrangement that would be seen to be contrived rather than natural

It was proposed by Councillor Dave Logan, seconded by Councillor Billy Hill and resolved with one vote against and one abstention to:

ask a working group of the Clerk and Councillors Ian Bond, Stephen Cockett and Billy Hill to consider the possibilities for internal division of the proposed new Ventnor and Wroxall Ward and circulate its findings to all Members in order to make possible a submission to the consultation if one is agreed by a majority.

116/18 LOCAL CABINET MEETING

- a) The invitation to Members to attend the 11 October meeting of the Isle of Wight Council's Cabinet being held at the Winter Gardens, along with Members from Godshill, Wroxall, Chale and Niton & Whitwell Parish Councils was discussed.
 - b) It was agreed that the Clerk would respond to the invitation with the names of those Members that were able to attend.
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117/18 VENTNORVILLE CONTRIBUTION

- a) The cost of lighting and securing the Festive Market for this year's three-day Ventnorville event located in the upper half of the Central Car Park is £1,390.
- b) The Town Council in previous years has contributed to the event and is requested to do so again as well as providing free car parking for some or all of its car parks.

It was proposed by Councillor Leigh Geddes, seconded by Councillor Billy Hill and unanimously resolved to:

- i) agree a contribution of £500 to this year's Ventnorville event; and
 - ii) ask the Assets and Services Working Group to respond to the request for free car parking during the event.
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118/18 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

- a) The Town Clerks' Report – 98/18 – recorded recent activity that did not require Town Council decisions at this time.
 - b) It included information on the recent meeting of the local branch of the Society of Local Council Clerks, the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils (IWALC), the latest meeting with the officers of the Ventnor Business Association, the six-weekly meeting with the Upper Ventnor Community Association Committee, another group of visiting students, the meeting of South Wight Parishes Health and Wellbeing Forum and the meetings of the Working Groups
 - c) Councillor Leigh Geddes asked if IWALC was able, as its Minute indicated, to instruct the National Association of Local Councils (NALC)'s Chief Executive to take a particular course of action .
 - d) The Mayor thanked Councillor Jason Mack for his continuing work in meeting with groups of A-Level Geography students during their time at the Medina Valley Centre.
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PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present. County Councillor Gary Peace was present at the meeting.

The Meeting closed at 8.12 pm

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

| DATE
