



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS 7PM

10 DECEMBER 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors: Tony Marvin (Chair), Leigh Geddes, Jason Mack, Brian Lucas, Dave Logan, Stephen Cockett, Ian Bond

No. SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present at this time,

133/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Stewart Blackmore.

134/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest at this time.

135/18 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 12 November 2018, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meeting of 20 November 2018 were noted.

136/18 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance report for this meeting (109/18) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 30 November 2018 and a list of all payments made during November 2018.
- b) Also included was a listing of budget variances during the first eight months of the financial year.
- c) Councillor Brian Lucas asked for details of Business Stream; Councillor Stephen Cockett asked for confirmation of the scheduling of payments for the Library's costs and Councillor Leigh Geddes asked about the higher than anticipated income from Salisbury Gardens

It was proposed by Councillor Brian Lucas seconded by Councillor Jason Mack and unanimously resolved that:
the Finance Report be accepted.

137/18 CASUAL VACANCY

- a) Report 110/18 for this meeting set out the arrangements for the by-election to fill the current vacancy in Lowtherville.
- b) The arrangements were noted and welcomed.

138/18 GIFT TO NATURE

- a) A request from Island 2000 Trust's Gift to Nature project for assistance with funding for its work on the three Ventnor sites – Nansen Down, Rew Down and the Landslip – it is responsible for managing was attached to Report 111/18.

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- b) Councillor Stephen Cockett said that he thought a contribution from the Green Ventnor Budget line would be appropriate and could be linked to a request for outreach effort in the form of volunteer events.
 - c) Councillor Leigh Geddes commented that these three areas are really important for the town, especially the Landslip.
 - d) Councillor Tony Marvin added that he would like to see the donation spent on a specific project that is reported back to us.

It was proposed by Councillor Stephen Cockett, seconded by Councillor Dave Logan and unanimously resolved that:

the Town Council contributes £540 to the work of Gift to Nature on Ventnor sites and asks organisers to report back to it at the end of the first year.

139/18 SHORE ROAD TOILETS

- a) Given that the Assets and Services Working Group has established that a cost of almost £15,000 would be needed to refurbish the Shore Road Public Toilets, Report 112/18 includes the possibility of exploring replacement costs
 - b) The Clerk reported that he was due to meet with Shanklin's Councillor John Gilbey and a surveyor from Danflow – the provider of the new Shanklin Public Toilets - later this week to discuss the likely costs of replacement.
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140/18 ISLAND PLANNING STRATEGY CONSULTATION

- a) Report 113/18 included a link to the recently published Draft for the new Island Planning Strategy that is now out for consultation until 28 January.
 - b) It was agreed that as the Town Council had responded to the earlier stakeholder stage of the consultation on the Strategy and the relevant Ventnor projects were now included there was no need to respond further to the current consultation.
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141/18 HEALTH UPDATE

- a) Councillor Jason Mack introduced this item with his update on recent developments in the Island's Health and Wellbeing services in his role as Lead Member for this area.
 - b) He began by reporting on the continuing success of the South Wight Locality Health and Wellbeing Forum, giving some details of the presentations the Forum had received from leading service providers and the opportunity the meetings provided for Town and Parish Councils to contribute.
 - c) He referred to the new Mental Health Blueprint for the Island and its significance for the 9.2% of Island's adult population needing support from services the Care Quality Commission still say require improvement.
 - d) He reported on the importance of the fact that the Island had secured £400k NHS England funding to assist with recruitment of General Practice Surgery staff, noting that the Island's 17 surgeries faced the challenge of almost a third of their GPs being due to retire in the next five years.
 - e) He concluded by saying that he would report to the January meeting with a focus on the potential for reviving one of the Town Council's Our Place projects, Family Voice.
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142/18 ISLAND LAW CENTRE

The Isle of Wight Council's decision to end its core funding of £70,000 a year for the Island's Law Centre was discussed in the context of its relevance of a significant number of the town's residents under pressures from the welfare benefits freeze and the roll out of Universal Credit.

It was proposed by Councillor Tony Marvin, seconded by Councillor Stephen Cockett and unanimously resolved that:

the Clerk is asked to draft a letter reflecting the concerns expressed during the discussion of the

false economy and the threat to a significant number of Ventnor residents the funding withdrawal represents to be submitted to the Isle of Wight Council by the Mayor.

143/18 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

- a) The Town Clerks' Report – 18/18 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions at this time.
 - b) It included information on progress with the two Feasibility Studies, the newly formed Access Forum, the Library Steering Group's latest meeting, the recent meeting of the Island Branch of the Society of Local Council Clerks and the dates of Working Group meetings.
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PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

144/18 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

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. :LGSC

The Meeting closed at 8pm

SIGNED BY THE DEPUTY MAYOR

| DATE
