



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS

7PM

14 OCTOBER 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors: Stewart Blackmore (Chair), Stephen Cockett, Jason Mack, Jamie Macaulay and Delian Fry

No. SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present at this time. County Councillor Gary Peace was welcomed by the Mayor.

102/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for Absence received from Councillors Colm Watling, Dave Logan and Brian Lucas.

103/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest at this time.

104/19 VENTNOR WEST TOWN COUNCILLOR CO-OPTION

Report 79/19 confirmed that following the advertisement of the vacancy no requests had been received by the Isle of Wight Council's Elections Officer for an election to be held and a proposal for co-option.

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Jason Mack and unanimously resolved to:

Co-opt James Toogood to the vacancy in Ventnor West with immediate effect.

Councillor James Toogood joined the meeting.

105/19 ST CATHERINE'S COLLEGE

- a) The Mayor welcomed the Acting Principal of St Catherine's School Amanda Ellison and its Project Manager Linda Lemonius to the meeting
- b) Amanda Ellison thanked the Town Council for the opportunity to share the plans for its development into the old St Boniface School building.
- c) Linda Lemonius said the works were being carried out in phases with the first phase focused on restoring the decoration and safety of the building after it has been empty for two years or so.
- d) She said that they had welcomed the opportunity to see the opportunities available at Boniface Fields with the Allotments and the opportunity for Raised Beds with the offered assistance of Ventnor Shed.
- e) Amanda stressed the importance of their relationships with the town's communities and hoped to make the main hall available for community events in due course.
- f) Linda suggested they might return to the Town Council meeting in six months or so to update on progress and invited comments or questions.
- g) The Mayor said how much he welcomed the development of the site and the opportunities for community engagement.
- h) Councillor James Toogood said he welcomed the reference to the introduction of building skills to the curriculum and offered his advice and assistance.
- i) The Mayor asked about the follow up of students that had moved on to employment and Amanda said that they maintained contact with as many as possible.
- j) Councillor Delian Fry asked if there was a Friends of St Catherine's organisation and Amanda

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- said that they were looking at starting a Parent Teacher Association.
- k) Councillor Stephen Cockett said he very much welcomed the development and the commitment to extend the range of skills available.
 - l) The Mayor thanked both for sharing their plans with the Town Council.
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106/19 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 9 September 2019, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
 - b) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meeting of 17 September were noted.
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107/19 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance report for this meeting (80/19) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 30 September 2019 and a list of all payments made during September 2019.
- b) Also included was a listing of budget variances during the first six months of the 2019/20 financial year.

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

108/19 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

The completed Annual Governance and Accountability Report for the financial year 2018/19 was attached to Report 81/19 for this meeting for Members' information.

109/19 INDEX OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION 2019

- a) Following the publication of the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 Report 82/19 summarised its implications for the town.
- b) The Mayor introduced the Report with the comment that its content was a matter of great concern.
- c) Councillor Jamie Macaulay said he hoped there would be an urgent response from the Isle of Wight Council in view of the significance of the data.
- d) Councillor Jason Mack said that the Town Council had been committed to addressing the local deprivation since he joined the Town Council and austerity had contributed significantly to the worsening of it since then.
- e) The Mayor drew Members' attention to the range of projects the Town Council was committed to delivering but that assistance was needed from the Isle of Wight Council to progress them.
- f) Councillor Delian Fry said that she thought that we should include the Island's MP in the discussions of the situation revealed in this data and Councillor Jason Mack agreed.
- g) The Mayor stressed that the Town Council was willing to take the initiative with relevant projects but needed the support of the Isle of Wight Council.
- h) The Clerk stressed that the assistance needed was not primarily financial but progressing the related political and officer decision making processes.
- i) County Councillor Gary Peace said that he was willing to offer his full support for the proposals.

It was proposed by Councillor Jason Mack, seconded by Councillor Jamie Macaulay and unanimously resolved to:

- i) record its concern about the increasing deprivation of the town's Central and Upper Ventnor areas in the trend revealed by the Indices of Multiple Deprivation from 2007 to
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- 2019;
- ii) authorise its Mayor and Town Clerk to ask the relevant senior politicians and senior officers to respond to this concern by supporting the specifics of the Town Council's regeneration plans on an urgent partnership basis as set out in Appendix A to this Report; and
 - iii) agree that the request for assistance with the Town Council's regeneration planning response to the deprivation data be addressed to:
 - o the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Isle of Wight Council, County Councillors Gary Peace and Graham Perks and the Island's MP Bob Seeley; and
 - o Director of Regeneration Chris Ashman, Assistant Director of Regeneration Ashley Curzon and Director of Neighbourhoods Colin Rowland.
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110/19 VENTNOR HAVEN

- a) An update on discussions about the future management and funding of the Haven was provided in Report 83/19.
- b) The Mayor invited Councillor Jason Mack to introduce the Report and he rehearsed the background to the current situation.
- c) He added that there had been some progress in that a two year extension to the contract with Cheetah Marine for dealing with the seaweed but that he felt that conversations needed to continue for a longer term and preferably local solution.
- d) The Mayor welcomed the Isle of Wight Council's action in providing the time for longer term solutions to be explored.
- e) Councillor James Toogood stressed the importance of making sure that discussions progress.

It was unanimously resolved to:

encourage and support ongoing discussions about the feasibility of a stakeholder-based local ownership governance structure of the Haven.

111/19 VENTNOR WAR MEMORIAL

The formal notification of the listing of Ventnor's War Memorial as a Building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest was attached to Report 84//19

It was unanimously resolved to:

acknowledge receipt of the Notice and remind the Isle of Wight Council of the lack of any evidence at this time regarding the War Memorial's ownership.

112/19 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

- a) The Town Clerks' Report – 85/19 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions at this time.
 - b) It included information on the proposed new Public Toilet, the Paddling Pool, The Beach Hut, the Children's Services Allotment Project, the Monday Club, meetings with Ventnor Business Association and the Upper Ventnor Community Association Committee and the meetings of the Town Council's Working Groups.
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PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

113/19 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.

The Meeting closed at 8:30pm

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE
