



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS

7PM

9 DECEMBER 2019

## MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors: Stewart Blackmore (Chair), Stephen Cockett, Jason Mack, Jamie Macaulay, Delian Fry, Brian Lucas, Colm Watling, Dave Logan, Steve Milford, Ian Bond, James Toogood

## No. SUBJECT

### PUBLIC FORUM

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

The Mayor welcomed Councillor Steve Milford as the new Member for Ventnor West Ward.

### 126/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Delian Fry .

### 127/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Steve Milford said that he works for the Isle of Wight Council and is Treasurer of Baby Box.

### 128/19 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 11 November 2019, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meeting of 28 November were noted.

### 129/19 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance Report for this meeting (95/19) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 30 November 2019 and a list of all payments made during November 2019.
- b) Also included was a listing of budget variances during the first eight months of the 2019/20 financial year.

**It was unanimously resolved that:**

the Finance Report be accepted.

### 130/19 NEW PUBLIC TOILET

- a) Report 96/19 summarised the anticipated costs of the new toilet if provided on the modular basis or as a new build.
- b) Councillor James Toogood said that longevity is an issue with the modular model likely require maintenance a few years in and pointed out other weaknesses. He argued that a built option without frills and a Victorian appearance should be the preferred option.
- c) The Mayor commented on the tendency of modular constructions to look shabby as evidenced by some other installations of this nature on the Island.
- d) Councillor James Toogood added that his proposal included the use of Vandal-proof stainless steel fittings, Wallgate washers in all area and a disabled area bigger than minimum.

**It was proposed by Councillor Brian Lucas, seconded by Councillor Stephen Cockett and unanimously resolved to:**

- i) progress the project on the basis of the built option; and

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- i) authorise expenditure of up to £2,655, to be recovered from the loan, for elements iii) and iv) of Minute 121/19.
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### 131/19 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

- a) In response to the Isle of Wight Council's new Grounds Maintenance contract effective from 1 January 2020, Report 97/19 set out the options for the Town Council in respect of both Ventnor Park and its own contract with John O'Conner for the other grassed areas of the town.
- b) Councillor Brian Lucas said that the pricing structure agreed with John O'Conner would need to reflect changes such as wild flower planting areas.

**It was proposed by Councillor James Toogood, seconded by Councillor Steve Milford and unanimously resolved to:**

- i) fund the additional grounds maintenance works required to retain the Park's current high standards from the Precept from 2020/21 at the anticipated level of £24,000 a year subject to agreement on a lease of the Park from the Isle of Wight Council for a period of at least five years; and
  - ii) request John O'Conner to agree a one year extension of the Town Council's existing contract for grounds maintenance on the basis of an inflation-linked increase.
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### 132/19 BEACH SAFETY

- a) The activity of the Town Council's Beach Safety project during the 2019 season was recorded in Report 98/19 for this meeting and included a recommendation for the staffing of the project in 2020.
- b) Councillor James Toogood said that it was unacceptable for dogs to be off their leads and for the staff to be bitten by them.
- c) Councillor Stephen Cockett welcomed the strong contribution from the volunteers.

**It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor James Toogood and unanimously resolved to:**

employ an additional temporary, part-time staff member for two days a week from 1 June to 30 September at a predicted cost of £2,380.

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### 133/19 VENTNOR CENTRAL PROJECT

- a) The outcome of the latest meeting with the Isle of Wight Council and the Island Community Led Housing Fund is summarised in Report 99/19 for this meeting with the conclusion that the planned project can only proceed if the Town Council is willing to borrow £1M to fund it.
- b) Councillor James Toogood commented that with rising costs the build could total £2m.
- c) Councillor James Macaulay said how sad it was that this point had been reached and hoped that other options could be fully explored.
- d) The Mayor stressed that this Town Council does not give up easily on its priorities and that we should not give up on the relocation of the Library.

**It was proposed by Councillor Jason Mack, seconded by Councillor Dave Logan and unanimously resolved to:**

- i) inform the Isle of Wight Council that the Town Council is not in a position to borrow the £1,000,000 identified as necessary to progress the current Project for the development of the old Youth Club; and
  - ii) authorise the staff team to explore alternative proposals to establish which of them may be worth taking to a detailed project stage and to report to Town Council meetings accordingly.
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**134/19 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT**

- a) The Town Clerks' Report – 100/19 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions at this time.
- b) It included information on change in weather station readings arrangements, a First Aid Course, the use of the Green Room by the Diagnostic Eye-screening Service, the Christmas Tree, the latest meeting of the South Wight Parishes Health and Wellbeing Forum, Youth Work funding, the Isle of Wight Council's 2020/21 Budget and the meetings of the Working Groups.

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**PUBLIC FORUM**

There were no members of the public present.

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**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.

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The Meeting closed at 8pm

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SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE