



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS

7PM

13 JANUARY 2020

## MEMBERS PRESENT

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

## No. SUBJECT

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### PUBLIC FORUM

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

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### 1/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Ian Bond.

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### 2/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest at this time.

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### 3/20 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 9 December 2019, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
  - b) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meeting of 9 January 2020 were noted.
  - c) The Minutes of the Library Steering Group meeting of 7 January 2020 were noted.
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### 4/20 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance Report for this meeting (1/20) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 December 2019 and a list of all payments made during December 2019.
- b) Also included was a listing of budget variances during the first nine months of the 2019/20 financial year.

**It was proposed by Councillor Jason Mack, seconded by Councillor Jamie Macaulay and unanimously resolved that:**  
the Finance Report be accepted.

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### 5/20 FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT

- a) The basis for the annual review of the Financial Risk Assessment by the Town Council was set out in Report 2/20 for this meeting.
- b) The current arrangements for the management of financial risks had been previously circulated to Members in advance of the meeting for comment and amendment.

**It was proposed by Councillor Dave Logan, seconded by Councillor Steve Milford and unanimously resolved that:**  
the Town Council approves and adopts the circulated list of arrangements for the management of financial risk.

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## 6/20 31 Bus

- a) Report 3/20 set out a recommendation from the Assets and Services Working Group to terminate the current 31 Bus provision from 1 April 2020.
- b) Councillor Stephen Cockett was invited by the Mayor to introduce an alternative proposal which he outlined as being a change to two days a week operation of the service subject to the operator's agreement.
- c) Councillor Colm Watling suggested there are other ways of assisting people who need transport.
- d) Councillor Jason Mack said he agreed that alternative approaches should be explored.
- e) Councillor Jamie Macaulay asked if cancellation would be a surprise to current users; Councillor Stephen Cockett said it probably would not be a surprise as existing passengers were well aware of the limited numbers using the service,
- f) Councillor James Toogood said he was in favour of terminating the service in view of the significant subsidy it required.
- g) Councillor Stephen Cockett proposed a 6 month continuation for 6 months from 1 April including the time needed to give notice to the Traffic Commissioner if a review at three months resulted in a decision to close it.

**It was proposed by Councillor Stephen Cockett, seconded by Councillor Colm Watling and resolved that:**

the service change to two days a week for a six month period from 1 April 2020 with a review after three months, subject to the operator's willingness to continue the service on that basis.

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## 7/20 NEW PUBLIC TOILET

- a) The detailed drawings for the new facility were tabled at the meeting.
- b) The Mayor said he found the plans exciting and invited Councillor James Toogood to introduce them.
- c) Councillor James Toogood explained the reasons for various aspects of the plans including the moving of the entrance to the disability friendly element to the side of the building.
- d) The Mayor asked whether external CCTV could be installed and Councillor James Toogood said that would be possible.
- e) Councillor Jamie Macaulay asked whether in the facility was in the best location within the car park
- f) Councillor Brian Lucas asked about the availability of the necessary connections at the now proposed location and Councillor James Toogood said they were close by.
- g) Councillor Jason Mack said he preferred the originally proposed location as it gave better visibility and accessibility.
- h) Councillor Brian Lucas suggested prices for the connection of services be obtained as a priority.

**It was proposed by Councillor James Toogood, seconded by Councillor Jamie Macaulay and unanimously resolved to:**

- i) agree the detailed drawings as tabled and approve their inclusion as the basis of the required submission for Planning Permission ;
  - ii) commission Andrew Hitt to prepare the documentation for a tender process to be prepared and operated by the Assets and Services Working Group.
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**8/20 VENTNOR HAVEN**

- a) An update on the ongoing discussions with the two businesses based in the Haven was provided by Report 5/20.
  - b) Councillor Colm Watling said he had read the proposal for an alternative approach to the seaweed problem and believed the possibilities were worth exploring.
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**9/20 HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY**

- a) The request from the Isle of Wight Council's Director of Regeneration for assistance with encouraging residents to participate in the current Housing Needs Survey as set out in his letter of 2 January was attached to Report 6/20 for this meeting.
  - b) Councillor Jason Mack commented on the acute shortage of properties to rent in Ventnor and Councillor Stephen Cockett added that there are only five properties to rent in the area at present.
  - c) Councillor Bran Lucas said that the willingness of the Planning Authority to approve change of use to holiday accommodation contributed to the shortage.
  - d) Councillor Steve Milford pointed out that the structure of the Survey would exclude those most in need of suitable rented properties.
  - e) It was agreed to return to this matter at the February meeting.
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**10/20 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT**

- a) The Town Clerks' Report – 7/20 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions at this time.
  - b) It included information on Salisbury Gardens, a change in the staffing of the Town Council's Youth work, the latest meeting of the Library Steering Group, the Upper Ventnor Community Association, a Fire Audit and the meetings of the two Working Groups.
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**PUBLIC FORUM**

There were no members of the public present.

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The Meeting closed at 8.10pm

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SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE

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