



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS

7PM

9 MARCH 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

No. SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

22/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors James Toogood and Delian Fry.

23/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest at this time.

24/20 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 10 February 2020, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read subject to the inclusion of Councillor Milford's Declaration of Interest.
- b) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meeting of 18 February 2020 were noted.

25/20 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance Report for this meeting (16/20) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 29 February 2020 and a list of all payments made during February 2020.
- b) Also included was a listing of budget variances during the first eleven months of the 2019/20 financial year.

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

26/20 PLANNING COMMITTEE PROTOCOL

- a) A Protocol of the work of the Town Council's Planning Committee had been agreed at its meeting of 18 February and was attached to Report 17/20 for adoption by the Town Council.
- b) Councillor Ian Bond commented that the Protocol's prime purpose was information for the public.

It was proposed by Councillor Brian Lucas, seconded by Councillor Ian Bond and unanimously resolved that:
the Protocol be adopted.

27/20 NEW PUBLIC TOILET

- a) Report 18/20 for this meeting updated Members on progress with the new Public Toilet and requested the Town Council to agree the start date for the build schedule, whether or not to include a charge for use and how to respond to the Isle of Wight Council's proposed rental charge for the four parking bays it will occupy.

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- b) Councillor Brian Lucas said that he wanted it to be clear that the installation of the new toilet was separate from the decisions about improvements to the town centre.
 - c) Councillor Dave Logan said that the Isle of Wight Council's charging proposals for the four car park bays to be occupied by the facility needed to be challenged as unreasonable.
 - d) Councillor Ian Bond added that the Isle of Wight Council would regain an asset in the form of the Marlborough Road Toilet building.
 - e) Councillor Brian Lucas pointed out that the movement of contractors' vehicles within the site during the works would need to be signposted.
 - f) In the discussion of charging for the use of the Toilets both Councillor Brian Lucas and Councillor Stephen Cockett said that they favoured including the cash, card contact 20p charging equipment in place to recoup some of the loan repayment cost while having the option to turn it off for agreed times.
 - g) Councillor Colm Watling identified the proposal to add spaces to the Central Car Park as identified in Report 19/20 for Agenda item 7 as the most attractive solution.

It was proposed by Councillor Dave Logan, seconded by Councillor Colm Watling and unanimously resolved that:

- i) the start date for the build works would be 1 September; and
 - ii) cash, card and contact facilities for charging 20p to use the Toilets would be included.
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28/20 CAR PARKS

- a) A range of options for the future of the town's Car Parks, with particular reference to the Central Car Park, were identified in Report 19/20.
- b) Councillor Colm Watling opened by reporting from the meeting he and the Mayor had with the Isle of Wight Council's Director of Regeneration that the issue was solely about income from the car parks and if the proposed developments resulted in no loss of income to the Isle of Wight Council then they could proceed.
- c) He added that the cost of redesigning the layout of the Central Car Park as indicated in the attachment to Report 19/20 could be shared between the two Councils.
- d) Councillor Brian Lucas commented that the proposed additional spaces would be income for the Town Council if it came to have control of the town's car parks.

It was unanimously agreed that:

the Clerk was authorised to secure guide prices for the redesign and open discussions with the Isle of Wight Council on the possibility.

29/20 WORKING GROUP

- a) In response to a proposal by Councillor Ian Bond that it would be beneficial for the Remit of each of the Town Council's Working Groups to be set out, Report 20/20 provided examples of the use of Working Groups by Town and Parish Councils, the development of the Town Council's Assets and Services and Community Development Working Groups and a draft Remit agreed at the 3 March meeting of the former.
- b) Councillor Ian Bond said that in his view Working Groups should deal with matters referred to them by the Town Council and that the draft for the Assets and Services Group was too wide with its inclusion of the phrase 'but not limited to'.
- c) Councillor Brian Lucas put the case for them to operate as a supportive 'think tanks' for the Town Council in the early testing and development of ideas and proposals for decision by the Town Council.
- d) The Mayor said that this freedom to explore possibilities was an important element of the Groups' work without which a number of valuable projects would not have been delivered.

It was unanimously agreed to:

to ask the Assets and Services Group to consider the proposed Remit further.

30/20 SOUTHWESTERN ENERGY HUB PROJECT

- a) Councillor Colm Watling introduced this item following his discussions with the Southwestern Energy Hub about funding for a Feasibility study of the potential of using beach cast seaweed from Ventnor beach and Haven (and possibly further afield) to feed an anaerobic digestion plant (there are 3 on the island) to generate gas to heat homes and/or run buses.
- b) He finished by saying that the Second Stage application form now needs completing and submitting.
- c) The Mayor thanked Councillor Colm Watling for his work on the project to date.

It was proposed by Councillor Colm Watling, seconded by Councillor Brian Lucas and unanimously resolved that:
the application be completed and submitted.

31/20 PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDERS

- a) The Isle of Wight Council's proposals for a reorganisation of its Public Spaces Protection Orders is subject to a current consultation until 15 April.
 - b) Councillor Ian Bond said this was not the Isle of Wight Council's finest hour given their management of the original consultation but the current proposals seemed reasonable.
 - c) He referred to the innovative approach to dog-friendliness adopted by Cornwall and wondered if the Isle of Wight Council had considered, or would consider, something similar.
 - d) The Mayor accepted Councillor Ian Bond's offer to submit a response to the consultation on behalf of the Town Council.
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32/20 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

- a) The Town Clerks' Report – 23/20 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions at this time.
 - b) It included information on Ventnor Food Bank, South Locality Primary Care Network, draft Island Housing Strategy, Certificate in Local Council Administration, South Wight Parishes Health and Wellbeing Form, Working Groups' meetings.
 - c) The Mayor commented on the closure of the Food Bank and said it is tragic that people have to go to other places to redeem their vouchers.
 - d) Councillor Steve Milford said that he also regretted the closure of the Food Bank.
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PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

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.

33/20 BONIFACE FIELDS

The Clerk reported on developments in connection with the Lease of the Fields since those recorded in Report 24/20 for this meeting.

The Meeting closed at 8.10pm

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE
