



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

VIRTUAL MEETING

7PM

18 MAY 2020

## MEMBERS PRESENT

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

## No. SUBJECT

### PUBLIC FORUM

The arrangements for the meeting provided for public access for the Public Forum but no members of the public took up that opportunity.

### 44/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Jamie Macaulay.

### 45/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest at this time.

### 46/20 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 20 April 2020, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.

### 47/20 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance Report for this meeting (34/20) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 30 April 2020 and a list of all payments made during April 2020.
- b) Also included was a listing of budget variances during the first month of the 2020/21 financial year.

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

### 48/20 INTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT

Report 35/20 included the report of the Town Council's Internal Auditor, Gareth Hughes, for the financial year 2019/20.

**It was unanimously resolved that:**

- i) the Internal Auditor's Report be accepted and Gareth Hughes be thanked for his thorough preparation of it; and
- ii) Gareth Hughes be appointed as the Town Council's Internal Auditor for 2020/21.

### 49/20 GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

- a) It was noted that the requirements a Town or Parish Council must fulfil to be eligible to exercise the General Power of Competence are:
  - o two-thirds of its Members must have been elected or stood for election;
  - o the Town Clerk must hold one of the recognised qualifications including that for the General Power of Competence.
- b) The Town Clerk confirmed that these criteria are complied with at this time.

**It was unanimously resolved that:**

Ventnor Town Council notes that as it meets the conditions of eligibility required to exercise the General Power of Competence as set out in the Parish Councils (General Power of Competence)

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(Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012 it continues to be eligible for its use.

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50/20 **SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE RESIDENTS**

- a) The Town Council's Community Development Officer Tony McCarthy had joined the meeting for this item.
- b) Report 37/20 summarised the current support available for the town's vulnerable residents from the Town Council's Staff, Members and Volunteers.
- c) Tony McCarthy provided the latest numbers of people involved in the support with 485 collections and deliveries being completed for over 300 individual residents by 40 volunteers with another 17 providing regular phone contact.
- d) He added that the Boots queue was now manageable and the Post Office 3-day a week opening with volunteer support was working well; he said he felt fortunate to be working in a town that had such strong community spirit.
- e) The Mayor raised the matter of the scheme's sustainability given the demands on both staff and volunteers and expressed the hope that the widespread willingness to volunteer would find new opportunities beyond the present emergency.
- f) Councillor Jason Mark, who has been closely involved in the support activity, said that he was confident that many of the volunteers were looking forward to continuing to work with the Town Council.
- g) Councillor Delian Fry said that the volunteers were doing fantastic work and hoped that Upper Ventnor residents were getting the support they needed; Tony McCarthy assured Members that some of the most active volunteers were themselves Upper Ventnor residents.
- h) Councillor Steve Milford commented that thanks were due to Tony McCarthy and the staff team and went on to ask about safeguarding arrangements; Tony McCarthy responded that there had been on one instance to date requiring reference to the authorities and that volunteers had been properly briefed.
- i) Councillors Stephen Cockett, Dave Logan and Ian Bond added their appreciation of the work being done in this area and the Mayor concluded the discussion by stressing that the staff should know they have Members' complete support for and appreciation of their work.

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51/20 **VENTNOR CAR PARKS**

- a) Report 38/20 provided a summary of the costs and income in respect of the four car parks the Town Council manage: Dudley Road, Market Street, Pound Lane and Shore road.
- b) Councillor Colm Watling said it was important to be clear what the Town Council's strategy was for the town's car parks and the Clerk provided a brief summary of the developments that led to the present position and said he would circulate the Town Council's Business Case for the management of all eight car parks that had been presented to the Isle of Wight Council in December 2017 and still awaited a response.
- c) Members were agreed that there was no need to adjust the charging structure at this time.

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52/20 **CENTRAL CAR PARK**

- a) An update on progress with the proposed redesign of the Central Car Park increase the number of bays sufficiently to provide for the four spaces required for the new Public Toilet and the possible replacement of the current free parking in the High Street was the subject of Report 39/20.
  - b) It was agreed to add Crown Park to those being asked for a quotation for the evaluation of the draft proposal for a redesign of the car park.
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53/20 **BONIFACE FIELDS**

Report 40/20 provided an update for information on the latest position in respect of the Lease and information on potential further developments of the resource.

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54/20 **TOWN CLERKS' REPORT**

- a) The Town Clerks' Report – 41/20 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions at this time.
- b) It included information on Working from Home, the closure of Public Toilets, the opening of the Putting Green and a credit for the overcharging for water usage at the Esplanade Toilet.
- c) Item 5 of the Report invited Members to consider amending the date of the June Town Council Meeting.

**It was unanimously resolved to:**

move the date of the June Town Council meeting from 8 June to 15 June.

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The meeting closed at 8.40pm

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE

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