



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

VIRTUAL MEETING

7PM

13 JULY 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

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.

67/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Delian Fry.

68/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Steve Milford declared an interest in respect of his involvement with Baby Box.

69/20 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 15 June 2020, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.

The Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 16 June were noted.

70/20 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance Report for this meeting (51/20) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 30 June 2020 and a list of all payments made during June 2020.
- b) Also included was a listing of budget variances during the first three months of the 2020/21 financial year.

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

71/20 CURRENTLY CLOSED SERVICES

- a) Report 52/20 for this meeting listed the recommendations of the Assets and Services Group about the possibility of re-opening the Paddling Pool, Outdoor Gym and 31 Bus.
- b) A Risk Assessment for the re-opening of the Paddling Pool and Outdoor Gym had been completed.
- c) Councillor Colm Watling opened the discussion with an outline of the process undertaken by him and Nick Cox in scoring the Risk Assessment for both the Paddling Pool and the Outdoor Gym that showed both facilities were graded in the Moderate Risk category and proposed mitigations for both.
- d) The Mayor said that more information was needed from the operator of the 31 Bus including a Risk Assessment and mitigation proposals.
- e) Councillor Stephen Cockett commented that given the Risk Assessment's finding he was happy to support the re-opening of both the Paddling Pool and the Outdoor Gym and hoped that the required additional information in respect of the 31 Bus would be forthcoming from the operator in order that the agreed three-month trial of the service could start as soon as possible.

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- f) Councillor James Toogood said he felt that the safest course of action in the current circumstances is to, keep all three services closed this year.
 - g) Councillor Brian Lucas welcomed the quality of the Risk Assessment and added the Town Council should consider funding a Lifeguard service for future years.

It was unanimously resolved to:

- i) agree to re-open the Outdoor Gym as soon as the required mitigation adjustments are in place;
 - ii) agree to re-open the Paddling Pool as soon as the required mitigation adjustments are in place;
 - iii) agree not to restart the 31 Bus service at this time and to request the Operator's Risk Assessment and mitigation proposals for the service;
 - i) agree not to operate the Beach Safety project this season;
 - ii) ask the Assets and Services Working Group to oversee the adjustments necessary for the re-opening of the Outdoor Gym and Paddling Pool; and
 - iii) authorise its Clerk, advised by the Assets and Services Working Group, to finalise and implement the re-opening of the Outdoor Gym and the Paddling Pool.
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72/20 SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE RESIDENTS

- a) Members noted and welcomed the information on the extent of support being provided by staff and volunteers for vulnerable residents as set out in Report 53/20.
 - b) The Clerk reported that the results of the survey of the experience of the active volunteers were now available and included considerable appreciation of the work of the Town Council and its staff.
 - c) Councillor Brian Lucas suggested that the Town Council explore ways of recognising the amazing work of the volunteer team.
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73/20 MAJOR PROJECTS ASSESSMENT

- a) Members worked through the list of the Town Council's nine Major Regeneration Projects as listed in Report 54/20 to assess progress and agree next steps.
- b) Councillor Brian Lucas asked about the delay in progressing the new Public Toilet and Councillor James Toogood replied that the plans could not proceed until there was support for the proposal in relation to Building Regulations.

It was unanimously resolved that the Town Council:

- i) notes the progress to date; and
 - ii) asks the town's Isle of Wight Council Members for their assistance in progressing these projects
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74/20 VENTNOR COMMUNITY FOODBANK

- a) Report 55/20 for this meeting summarised the changes following the decision of the Isle of Wight Foodbank to close the Ventnor Branch and the determination of its existing volunteer team to keep it open, a Venture supported by the Town Council's Community Development Officer Tony McCarthy.
 - b) Councillor Stephen Milford commented that he was very impressed with the quality and commitment of the volunteer team.
 - c) Councillor James Toogood proposed the offer of a £1,000 contribution to the start-up costs of the new Ventnor Community Foodbank and that was seconded by Councillor Jamie Maculay.
 - d) The proposal was defeated on the basis of the absence of an agreed process for making the contribution.
 - e) Following the Clerk's suggestion that a process used previously with a contribution to the costs of Gift to Nature, whereby the recipient provided a list of the uses to which the
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contribution would be put together with a commitment to report on its expenditure in due course could also apply here:

It was resolved, with one vote against and one abstention that the Town Council: delegates its Clerk to request a listing of the use to which a contribution of £1,000 towards the start-up costs of the new Ventnor Community Food Bank and to make that contribution on receipt of a satisfactory list and accompanying commitment to report on it.

75/20 **CENTRAL CAR PARK**

It was agreed that this item be included in the planned discussion with the town's County Councillors.

76/20 **STANDING ORDERS/FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

It was agreed that this item be postponed to the August Town Council meeting. +

77/20 **TOWN CLERKS' REPORT**

- a) The Town Clerks' Report – 58/20 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions at this time.
 - b) It included information on the AGAR, Youth Officer recruitment, the Esplanade Toilet, the Town and Parish Councils' seminar, the Bob Seely MP Meeting, the South Wight Parishes Health and Wellbeing Forum meeting and the Working Groups.
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The meeting closed at 9.20pm

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE
