



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

VIRTUAL MEETING

7PM

10 AUGUST 2020

## MEMBERS PRESENT

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

## NO. SUBJECT

### PUBLIC FORUM

The arrangements for the meeting provided for public access for the Public Forum were on the web site and one resident joined the Forum to urge the restarting of the 31 Bus; the Mayor assured her that her concerns would be taken into consideration.

### 78/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Jason Mack and Delian Fry.

### 79/20 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 13 July 2020, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.

The Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings of 14 and 21 July were noted.

### 80/20 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance Report for this meeting (59/20) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 July 2020 and a list of all payments made during July 2020.
- b) Also included was a listing of budget variances during the first four months of the 2020/21 financial year.
- c) Councillor Brian Lucas asked about the underspend on the Youth Service and the Clerk responded that this was due to the fact that the Youth Worker post would not be filled until September.

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

### COVID-19 AFFECTED SERVICES

- a) Report 60/20 for this meeting recorded the re-opening of the Paddling Pool and Outdoor Gym and the recommendation of the Assets and Services Working Group not to re-start the 31 Bus service at this time.
- b) The Mayor welcomed the re-opening of the Paddling Pool and Outdoor Gym and added that he was opposed to restarting the 31-Bus at this time, urging research into a better service provided directly by the Town Council in 2021/22.
- c) Councillors James Toogood and Ian Bond both indicated that they were not in favour of restarting the service at this time.
- d) Councillor Stephen Cockett made the case for restarting it, reading a pre-prepared statement identifying the Covid-19, financial and social reasons why it could and should be restarted.
- e) Councillor James Toogood said that if it was restarted it should provide no more than 5 seats for passengers.
- f) Councillor Jamie Macaulay said he felt the priority was to provide a new and better service in the future.

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- g) Councillor Brian Lucas stated that he was very much in favour of restarting the service on the basis agreed at the January meeting as it is a valued social and community service

**It was proposed by Councillor Dave Logan, seconded by Councillor Brian Lucas and resolved to:**

- i) implement the Town Council's decision in Minute 6/20 to change to two days a week for a six month period with a review after three months, subject to the operator's willingness to continue the service on that basis; and
  - ii) explore options for a new Community Bus service for the town from the 2021/22 financial year.
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#### **82/20 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 61/20.
  - b) The Clerk informed Members that both the number of requests for collections of shopping and prescriptions and the number of available volunteers had declined in recent weeks and that discussions were continuing with the Manager of Boots about arrangements
  - c) The Assistant Clerk added that the collection of prescriptions from Boots had been reduced from twice to once a day.
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#### **83/20 VENTNOR PARK: HEADS OF TERMS**

The draft Heads of Terms provided by the Isle of Wight Council as the basis for the Lease was attached to Report 82/20 for this meeting along with a related Plan of the area.

**It was proposed by Councillor Stephen Cockett, seconded by Councillor Jamie Macaulay and unanimously resolved that:**

the Heads of Terms be accepted and a Schedule of Conditions be provided along with the Lease.

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#### **84/20 SOUTHERN VECTIS BUS ROUTES**

- a) Report 63/20 for this meeting included the proposal for alternative routing of the No. 3 Bus through the town and the Town Council's Economic Development Officer Nick Cox was invited by the Mayor to explain the reasons for it
- b) The Mayor commented that the proposed alternative routing was a clear improvement on the current one and was a return to an earlier routing of the Bus.
- c) Councillor Stephen Cockett said that he had come to the same conclusion during his work on potential improvements to the town centre.

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

- i) support the alternative routing of the No. 3 service; and
  - ii) authorise the Clerk and Nick Cox to progress the option with Officers from the Isle of Wight Council and Southern Vectis.
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#### **85/20 PROPOSED OIL DRILLING CONSULTATION**

- a) The Mayor introduced this item following his receipt of an email from the Don't Drill the Isle of Wight Campaign, a copy of which was attached to Report 64/19; he added that he was opposed to all drilling on the Island as it conflicts with the Eco-Island and Green Island concepts.
  - b) Councillor Colm Watling said that although he was supportive of the Green Agenda oil remains essential for the production of plastics and aero-fuel.
  - c) Councillor Stephen Cockett told Members that he had already registered his objection to the Planning Application as not being in line with the Isle of Wight Council's stated objectives.
  - d) Councillor Steve Milford stated that he was opposed to all fracking and drilling on the Island and Councillor Dave Logan agreed with him as did Councillors Brian Lucas and Ian Bond.
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**It was proposed by the Mayor. seconded by Councillor Steve Milford and resolved that:**

Ventnor Town Council opposes all fracking and drilling on the Island.

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86/20 **TOWN TRAIL BOARDS**

- a) Report 65/20 included a request from Ventnor Heritage for support in the 2021/22 Budget for the Town Trail Boards in a total of £700 as they were prepared to take on responsibility for their maintenance and the production of the associated leaflets now that the Ventnor and Undercliff Partnership were no longer in a position to do so.
- b) Councillor James Toogood said that the Boards would continue to need maintenance.

**It was proposed by Councillor Ian Bond. seconded by Councillor Brian Lucas and unanimously resolved to:**

include a Budget line of £700 in the 2021/22 Budget for Ventnor Heritage towards the costs of maintaining the Town Trail Boards and related leaflets.

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87/2 **STANDING ORDERS**

Report 66/20 for this meeting outlined the reasons for updating the Town Council's Standing Orders and included a copy of a draft based on a customisation of the latest Model Standing Orders produced by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC).

**It was proposed by Councillor Colm Watling. seconded by Councillor Jamie Macaulay and unanimously resolved to:**

return to the matter at the September meeting of the Town Council to provide time for further consideration of the procurement arrangements specified in the draft.

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88/20 **TOWN CLERKS' REPORT**

- a) The Town Clerks' Report – 67/20 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions at this time.
  - b) It included information on Working from Home, the Meeting with Councillor Gary Peace, Additional Funding, Business Rates on Public Toilets. Shore Road Car Park Hire, the meetings with the Island's MP, Clerk's Column and the meetings of the Working Groups.
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The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE

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