



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

VIRTUAL MEETING

7PM

9 NOVEMBER 2020

## MEMBERS PRESENT

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

## SUBJECT

### PUBLIC FORUM

The arrangements for the meeting providing for public access for the Public Forum were on the web site. There were no members of the public present.

### 109/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no Apologies for Absence.

### 110/20 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 12 October 2020, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.

The Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 27 October were noted.

### 111/20 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The Mayor reported on his attendance and wreath-laying at the War Memorial at 3pm on Sunday 8 November accompanied by the town's Vicar Hugh Wright, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant and Councillor Colm Watling.

### 112/20 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance Report for this meeting (85/20) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 October 2020 and a list of all payments made during October 2020.
- b) Also included was a listing of budget variances during the first seven months of the 2020/21 financial year.

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

### 113/20 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT (AGAR)

A copy of the AGAR signed off by the Town Council's External Auditor was attached to Report 86/20 for this meeting.

### 114/20 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING DATES

A proposed schedule of Town Council meetings during the calendar year 2021 was included in Report 87/20.

**It was proposed by Councillor Brian Lucas, seconded by Councillor Steve Milford and unanimously resolved to:**  
adopt the schedule of meetings of the Town Council as set out in Report 93/19 for this meeting.

### 115/20 FILMING IN VENTNOR AND BONCHURCH

- a) Report 88/20 recorded the successful conclusion of the filming for the beast *must die* in Salisbury Gardens.

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- b) It was noted that the agreed fee for the building's use had been received and TBMD Productions' Stephen Parker and Ruby Whitelocke were thanked for the highly professional way in which they had managed the location and relationships with Town Council staff and residents.

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116/20 **OUTDOOR GYM**

- a) Councillor James Toogood introduced this item with reference to the need to replace one of the pieces of equipment as set out in Report 89/20.
- b) He explained that the Elliptical Trainer has reached the end of its life and proposed that it be replaced by an Arm and Pedal Bike to be installed by Freshair Fitness – the original installer of the facility – at its quoted cost of £1,165.40.

**It was proposed by Councillor James Toogood, seconded by Councillor Brian Lucas and unanimously resolved that:**

Freshair Fitness be commissioned to replace the Elliptical Trainer with an Arm and Pedal Bike at the quoted price of £1,165.40.

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117/20 **A BETTER VENTNOR**

- a) Report 90/20 for this meeting expanded on Report 80/20 for the Town Council meeting of 12 October to reinforce the extent of the threat to the Town from the combination of its already embedded deprivation and the current pandemic and identify the need for collaborative working with the Isle of Wight Council in response to it.
- b) The Mayor opened the discussion, summarising the local media response to the consideration of the town's exclusion from the Isle of Wight Council's Covid-19 Recovery Plan at the October meeting and stressing the significance of the town's deprivation ranking within the country and the Island set out in this Report.
- c) Following the resolution of the October meeting to secure the assistance of the town's County Councillors in progressing the Town Council's regeneration projects Councillor Brian Lucas reported on a meeting he and the Mayor had with County Councillor Graham Perks.
- d) He said that Councillor Perk's response was so disappointing that he had given up on expecting any assistance with or interest in the challenges facing the town from him, a conclusion with which the Mayor agreed.
- e) Councillor Brian Lucas commented that he wanted to see a direct connection between what the Indices reveal and the projects the Town Council is developing.
- f) Councillor Colm Watling said that being able to demonstrate the relative values of what the town contributed to the Isle of Wight Council via Council Tax and what it received from its services would be a useful basis for the case for increased support from the principal authority.
- g) Councillor Jamie Macaulay said that his experience of deprivation in Glasgow had shown him how long it takes to achieve positive changes in the fundamentals of employment, housing, education and health.
- h) Councillor Dave Logan referred to his experience of the Isle Wight Council's contribution to regeneration in the Pan area of Newport that he said was based on three particular elements, the community centre and school as bases for community services and a County Councillor's very effective championship for the area's development.
- i) Councillor Stephen Cockett expressed his concern about the potential decline in the town's population, noting that there appears to be only one property for rent and referenced employment as one of the critical factors, welcoming the potential development of the spare land in Upper Ventnor.

**It was proposed by Councillor Steve Milford, seconded by Councillor Dave Logan and unanimously resolved to:**

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- i) welcome the Isle of Wight Council's willingness to renew detailed discussions with the Town Council about its currently identified regeneration plans; and
  - ii) agree the Agenda set out in section 5 of Report 90/20 as the basis for those discussions.
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**118/20 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT**

- a) The Town Clerks' Report – 91/20 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions at this time.
  - b) It included information on the Outdoor Gym, Christmas tree, Beach Cleaning, Visit Isle of Wight, Bob Seely meeting, Gary Peace meeting and the Working Groups.
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The meeting closed at 8.07pm.

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE

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