



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

VIRTUAL MEETING

7PM

14 DECEMBER 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

## MINUTE 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. County Councillor Gary Peace was welcomed to the meeting by the Mayor.

### 119/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no Apologies for Absence.

### 120/20 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 9 November 2020, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 1 December were noted.

### 121/20 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance Report for this meeting (92/20) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 30 November 2020 and a list of all payments made during November 2020.
- b) Also included was a listing of budget variances during the first eight months of the 2020/21 financial year.

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

the Finance Report be accepted.

### 122/20 NEW PUBLIC TOILET: BORROWING APPROVAL

- a) Report 93/20 for this meeting set out the process for applying to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for Borrowing Approval and a completed application form was attached to it.
- b) The Mayor introduced the item, reminding Members that the Application for Borrowing Approval and drawing down the loan were two separate processes.
- c) Councillor Colm Watling stressed the importance of ensuring value for money and maximising the environmental aspects of the project
- d) The Clerk assured him that the annual loan requirement is already included in the current year's Budget at the level of the Borrowing Approval and would have no additional consequences for future years.
- e) Councillor Stephen Cockett reminded the meeting of the anticipated income of some £4,000 a year from the pay-to-use function.
- f) Councillor Steve Milford assured Members that the Public Works Loan Board was the most appropriate agency to provide the loan.

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

- i) agree the submission of the attached application for Borrowing Approval in a total of

- 
- ££150,000; and
- ii) delegate the selection of the contractor to be commissioned for the works to the Town Clerk advised by the Assets and Services Working Group.
- 

#### 123/20 VENTNOR PARK

- a) Attached to Report 94/20 were the comments received from the Town Council's Solicitor on the Draft Lease provided by the Isle of Wight Council and the responses of the Assets and Services Working Group to them.
- b) Councillor Brian Lucas reported on the detailed inspection of the Park that he and Councillor James Toogood had carried out together with the Isle of Wight Council's Officer responsible for the Park as part of the development of a jointly agreed Schedule of Conditions.
- c) Councillor James Toogood commented that the provision the Town Council needed to make for maintenance outside of the Grounds Maintenance contract should be at least £5,000.
- d) The Mayor asked about the possible insurance cover for the Park's trees and the Clerk said he would discuss that with the Council's Insurers.
- e) Councillor Delian Fry said how important it was to be clear about the Park's boundaries and in particular the condition of and responsibility for the cliff edge side of it.
- f) Councillor Brian Lucas added that the Isle of Wight Council had indicated that they would survey the condition of the trees and fell and remove any dangerous ones before the lease took effect.
- 

#### 124/20 VENTNOR HIGH STREET

- a) A proposal by Councillor Stephen Cockett for adjustments to the High Street were attached to Report 95/20.
- b) Councillor Stephen Cockett introduced his proposal, pointing out that it did not preclude other changes to the area in the future while resolving one of the area's significant issues and including two crossings.
- c) The proposal was welcomed and supported by Members.

**It was proposed by Councillor Stephen Cockett, seconded by Councillor James Toogood and unanimously resolved that the Town Council:**

authorises the clerk to contact Island Roads and request a feasibility study and quotation for works guided by the draft scheme for consideration by the Town Council.

---

#### 125/20 ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL BUDGET CONSULTATION 2021/22

It was agreed to postpone this item until the January Town Council meeting.

---

#### 126/20 PLANNING COMMITTEE PROTOCOL

A draft for an additional element to the Protocol was attached to Report 97/20.

**It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor James Toogood and unanimously resolved that:**

the addition to the Protocol be agreed and added to it.

---

#### 128/20 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

- a) The Town Clerks' Report – 98/20 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions at this time.
- b) It included information on the Outdoor Gym, a meeting with Ryde Town Council, a meeting with the Island's MP, the latest meeting of the South Wight Parishes Health and wellbeing Forum, the installation of the Christmas Tree, Daphne Carter's Bench, a meeting with
-

---

County Councillor for Ventnor East Gary Peace and the dates of the meetings of the Working Groups.

---

129/20 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.

---

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE

---