



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

ST MARGARET'S HALL

6.20PM

17 MAY 2021

Members Present

Councillors: Stephen Cockett (Mayor), Brian Lucas,, Mark Jefferies, Phil Warren, Julie Hutchison, Ian Bond, Colm Watling,

## MINUTE SUBJECT

### PUBLIC FORUM

There was one member of the public present.

### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest at this time.

### 49/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors James Toogood and Steph Toogood.

### 50/21 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 12 April 2021, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee meeting of 4 May 2021 were noted.

### 51/21 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance Report for this meeting, 38/21, had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 30 April 2021 and a list of all payments made during April 2021
- b) It was proposed by Councillor Mark Jefferies, seconded by Councillor Phil Warren and unanimously resolved that: the Finance Report be accepted.

### 52/21 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS 2020/21

- a) The final Accounts for 2020/21 were attached to Report 39/21 for this meeting.
- b) Councillor Brian Lucas asked the Clerk about the relatively low level of income from car parking as compared with the rental costs.
- c) The Clerk explained that the actual cost would be lower as the Isle of Wight Council had agreed, after the accounts were completed, that a 17% rent reduction was applicable consequent on the Isle of Wight Council's decision to allow free parking for the months of April and May.

**It was proposed by Councillor Mark Jefferies, seconded by Councillor Julie Hutchison and unanimously resolved that the Town Council:**

accepts the Income and Expenditure Account and related Balance Sheet attached to Report 39/212 for this meeting as its Annual Accounts for the financial year 2020/21.

### 53/21 INTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT

The Report of the Town Council's Internal Auditor Gareth Hughes was attached to Report 40/21 for this meeting.

**It was proposed by Councillor Mark Jefferies, seconded by Councillor Phil Warren and unanimously resolved that:**

- i) the Internal Auditor's Report be accepted;

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- ii) Gareth Hughes be thanked for his thorough preparation of it; and
  - iii) Gareth Hughes be appointed as the Town Council's Internal Auditor for 2021/22.
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#### 54/21 ANNUAL RETURN: GOVERNANCE

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2020/21 that the Town Council is required to submit to its External Auditor by 30 June 2021, had been previously circulated to Members.

**It was proposed by Councillor Ian Bond, seconded by Councillor Julie Hutchison and unanimously resolved that:**

the Governance Statements in Section 1 of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return for the financial year 2020/21 be endorsed as presented and the Mayor be authorised to sign Section 1 accordingly.

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#### 55/21 ANNUAL RETURN: ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

Members considered the Accounts Statements for the financial year 2020/21 in Section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020/21 as set out in the previously circulated copy.

**It was proposed by Councillor Brian Lucas, seconded by Councillor Phil Warren and unanimously resolved that the Town Council:**

- i) approves the Accounting Statements set out in Section 2 of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return; and
  - ii) authorises its Mayor to sign Section 2 accordingly; and
  - iii) asks its Clerk to submit the completed return together with the required additional papers in advance of the 30 June 2021 deadline.
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#### 56/21 CO-OPTION PROCESS

- a) As the local elections of 6 May 2021 have left the Town Council with two vacancies they can be filled by use of its Co-option Policy the relevant sections of which are included in Report 43/21.
- b) Councillor Brian Lucas proposed that the Town Council co-opts the two Ventnor West candidates that obtained the highest number of votes for those that were unsuccessful.
- c) Councillor Colm Watling commented that they were candidates for Ventnor West and not for the two Wards with the vacancies.

**It was proposed by Councillor Phil Warren , seconded by Councillor Ian Bond and unanimously resolved:**

to ask its Clerk to implement its Co-option Policy in respect of the current vacancies in Bonchurch & Ventnor East and Lowtherville.

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#### 57/21 BORROWING APPROVAL

Following a delayed, Interim Assessment response from the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government to the Town Council's application for Borrowing Approval the Town Council is asked to submit its resolution approving the application in the now specified format:

**It was proposed by Councillor Brian Luas, seconded by Councillor Phil Warren and unanimously resolved that:**

at the Ventnor Town Council meeting of 17 May 2021 it was RESOLVED to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government to apply for a PWLB loan of £150,000 over the borrowing term of 25 years for building a new, disability friendly Public Toilet in the town's Central Car Park. The annual repayments will come to around £9,015 which was provided for in the 2020/21 Budget, representing 2.5% of the Budget total for that year; no further increase will be required.

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#### 58/21 SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE RESIDENTS

- a) Report 46/21 summarised the use of grant funding totalling £12,500 in funding from the Isle
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of Wight Council for the support of residents at particular risk from the pandemic.

- b) The Mayor invited the Town Council's Community Development Officer to comment on the work that had been so successfully carried out.
- c) The Clerk commented that the work had provided evidence of the extent of deprivation in the town and hoped that addressing the related issues would continue to be a priority for the Town Council.

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**59/21 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT**

- a) The Town Clerks' Report – 46/21 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions at this time.
- b) It included staffing, office opening, Dudley Road Car Park, Ventnor Day 2021, the Annual Town Meeting and dates of the Working Groups meetings.

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The meeting closed at 7.10 pm.

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE

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