



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS

7PM

9 AUGUST 2021

Members Present

Councillors: Stephen Cockett (Chair) Steph Toogood, James Toogood, Phil Warren, Julie Hutchison, Ian Bond, Steve Cooper, Mark Jefferies

MINUTE SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

County Councillor Rodney Downer was in attendance. He told us of his actions in respect of trees overhanging the pavement and his meeting with the Bonchurch Community Association. He added that the issue of parking at the top of Bonchurch Shute is now on the Island Roads' list for future consideration.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest at this time.

83/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Brian Lucas and John Watkins.

84/21 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 12 July 2021, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.

85/21 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance Report for this meeting, 64/21, had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 July 2021 and a list of all payments made during July 2021.
- b) Also included was a listing of budget variances during the financial year.

It was proposed by Councillor Steve Cooper, seconded by Councillor Mark Jefferies and unanimously resolved that:
the Finance Report be accepted

86/21 NEW PUBLIC TOILET

- a) Report 65/21 noted that although Borrowing Approval for the project had been granted, the Town Council still wanted to agree a reasonable charge by the Isle of Wight Council for the use of the four parking bays in the Central Car Park required for the new toilets.
- b) The Mayor reported on the two virtual meetings that he and the Clerk had had with the relevant Isle of Wight Council Officers.
- c) The Isle of Wight Council has notified us that they are willing to reduce the charge to £2,950.
- d) Councillor Steve Cooper said that he felt it was outrageous that anything at all was being charged and suggested that the matter be further negotiated.
- e) Councillor James Toogood said that although he agreed that there should be no charge the offer was a reasonable basis on which to proceed and that further delay would add to build costs.
- f) The Mayor said that on the basis of the virtual meetings he would be surprised if the Isle of Wight Council is prepared to reduce the proposed charges any further.
- g) Councillor Steph Toogood reported that she was aware of many people keen to see the toilets

built.

- h) Councillor Mark Jefferies reinforced the fact that building costs will inevitably increase with further delays in issuing the contract.
- i) Councillor Ian Bond said that although he would support proceeding on the basis of the revised charge he could not support the link to annual RPI increases.

It was proposed by Councillor James Toogood, seconded by Councillor Phil Warren and unanimously resolved to:

to authorise the Clerk to issue the contract for the building of the new Public Toilet to its Preferred Contractor, D N Norville Associates.

87/21 CAR PARK MANAGEMENT

- a) The Mayor summarised Report 66/21 for this meeting drawing attention to the agreement of the Isle of Wight Council's relevant officers in the recent virtual meeting to report back to the Town Council on which of the potential changes listed in Parkspace Consulting's 2013 study could be incorporated within the Isle of Wight Council's continuing management of the four car parks.
 - b) The Clerk asked Members to consider two distinct approaches to the ongoing discussions, the first being to wait for, and if acceptable work with, the Isle of Wight Council's offer of changes to be incorporated by them and the second being to open discussions with the other Island Town and Parish Councils interested in managing their own car parks with a view to a combined approach to the Isle of Wight Council for local management of car parks.
 - c) Councillor Ian Bond made the point that there are good reasons for progressing both approaches at the same time.
 - d) There was no formal resolution proposed at this time but agreement with the Mayor's suggestion to ask the Assets and Services Working group to consider the matter at its next meeting and report back and that in the meantime he would draft an email for circulation to the other Town and Parish Councils known to have an interest in managing their own car parks.
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88/21 31 Bus

- a) Report 58/21 updated Members on the conclusions and recommendation of the 31 Bus Working Group established at the July meeting.
- b) The Mayor stressed that the working group is very much committed developing an alternative service and hopes to bring proposals to the Town Council within a couple of months..
- c) Councillor Mark Jefferies said that people were concerned about how long the service will not be available and asked what reason did the three potential other operators give for not taking on the service?

It was proposed by Councillor James Toogood, seconded by Councillor Ian Bond and unanimously resolved to:

- i) endorse the recommendation of its Working Group to terminate the service through the process identified in section 3(b) of this Report and to inform the supplier accordingly; and
 - ii) Ask its Working Group to continue to explore alternative arrangements for a Community Bus service.
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89/21 NEW WEB SITE

- a) Councillor Ian Bond introduced the item, summarising the details set out in Report 68/21 and thanked the Town Council's Administrator Morgan Williams for his related research.

It was proposed by Councillor Mark Jefferies, seconded by Councillor Steve Cooper and unanimously resolved to:

authorise the Clerk to request quotations for the supply and maintenance of a new Town

Council web site from Zonkey, Aubergine and Wight Computers.

90/21 RURAL MARKET TOWNS GROUP

- a) Report 69/21 provided information on the Rural Market Tourist Group that the Town Council had now joined in response to the offer of free membership until 31 March 2022.
 - b) Councillor Ian Bond commented that he would welcome the development of a Coastal Communities Network.
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91/21 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

- a) The Town Clerks' Report – 70/21 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions at this time.
 - b) It included the Business Development Officer post, Connect4Communities funding, the Welcome Back fund, Bob Seely's meeting, the High Sheriff's visit, site visit to land in Upper Ventnor and the dates of the Working Groups.
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The meeting closed at 7.50pm

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE
