



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS

7PM

8 NOVEMBER 2021

Members Present

Councillors: Stephen Cockett (Chair) Steph Toogood, Ian Bond, Brian Lucas, Phil Warren, John Watkins, Steve Cooper, Mark Jefferies

MINUTE SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

There were four members of the public present.

The newly elected Town Councillor for Lowtherville Ward joined the public for this meeting.

County Councillor Rodney Downer sent his apologies as he would be attending Wroxall Parish Council's meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest at this time.

110/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Julie Hutchison and James Toogood.

111/21 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 13 September 2021, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.

The Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 19 October 2021 were noted.

FINANCE REPORT

- 112/21
- a) The Finance Report for this meeting, 83/21, had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 October 2021 and a list of all payments made during October 2021.
 - b) Also included was a listing of budget variances during the first seven months of the financial year.

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

113/21 31 Bus

- a) Councillor Brian Lucas introduced his motion that had the written support of the five other Members necessary for a reversal of a Town Council decision made within the last six months.
- b) The Motion and its supporters was received by the Clerk more than five clear days before this meeting and was: 'to endorse the recommendation of the 31 Bus working group to halt the termination process previously agreed and continue with Top Taxis for a two day a week, service.'
- c) Councillor Brian Lucas said that he was introducing the motion in response to concerns about its loss by residents.
- d) He added that it was hoped that the decision to continue the service would result in the operator responding positively to the concerns about it expressed in the past and ensure it

was experienced as a community bus.

- e) Councillor Steve Cooper welcomed Councillor Brian Lucas's rationale with some caveats, stressing the Town Council needed to be aware of the costs and the monthly passenger figures.
- f) Councillor Phil Warren also supported the motion and said he would continue to support the service if usage continued to justify it.
- g) Councillor John Watkins also added his supported along with the hope that there would be an increasing sense of a community service.
- h) Councillor Steph Toogood supported the motion but said she was keen to see that the signage was improved along with the reliability of the service's timings.
- i) Councillor Mark Jefferies said he was relieved at the level of support for continuing the service given the response to the proposed closure by several residents.
- j) Councillor Ian Bond added his support for the continuation.

It was proposed by Councillor Brian Lucas, seconded by Councillor John Watkins and unanimously resolved:

to endorse the recommendation of the 31 Bus working group to halt the termination process previously agreed and continue with Top Taxis for a two day a week service.

114/21 A DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

- a) Attached to Report 87/21 for this meeting was a proposed development programme, agreed with the Community Development Working Group, for increasing the engagement of Members with the Town Council's work in responding to the town's deprivation and building on it.
 - b) The Mayor outlined the background to the Report and some of the Town Council's responses to the areas of deprivation to date.
 - c) He highlighted the continuing downward trend into deeper deprivation shown in each of the government assessments since 2007.
 - d) Councillor Brian Lucas stressed the importance of employment in addressing deprivation and welcomed involvement with the proposed development of the land in Upper Ventnor.
 - e) Councillor Phil Warren said the programme was an excellent idea that all would benefit by joining in.
 - f) Councillor John Watkins said that he was involved in the Anxiety Café and wanted Members to be aware that it was widely recognised as the largest group of its kind on the Island and was attracting study and interest.
 - g) Councillor Mark Jefferies informed Members that he had joined Breakfast in the Bay and that was interested in connecting with a range of organisations.
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115/21 TIME AND TIDE BELL PROJECT

- a) Councillor Phil Warren introduced this Agenda item, expanding on the detail he had provided that was attached to Report 88/21 for this meeting.
 - b) He outlined the areas in which Bells had already been established as the project developed before focusing on the plan to add Ventnor, stressing its educational value and adding that it was hoped to complete the installation in Spring 2022.
 - c) The costs of the Ventnor installation were attached to the Report although it was not yet clear what financial contribution might be required from the Town Council.
 - d) Councillor Steph Toogood said that she was excited by it but had concerns about swimmers climbing on it particularly in its proposed location; Councillor Phil Warren responded that it had been designed with safety in mind and would be very difficult to climb on.
 - e) Councillor Ian Bond stated his support for the project that he expected to have benefits
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- for the town; Councillor Phil Warren responded that other areas have found the bells generate a range of additional projects.
- f) Councillor Steve Cooper asked what the ongoing costs to the Council would be.
- It was proposed by Councillor Phil Warren, seconded by Councillor Ian Bon and unanimously resolved to:**
adopt a Time and Tide Bell and become its legal owner subject to agreement on final details for the project; and
agrees in principle to submit the relevant Planning Application subject to sight of it.
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116/21 POLICY REVIEWS

- a) Attached to Report 89/21 were reviewed and updated versions of three of the Town Council's current Policy Documents for adoption: Health and Safety, Safeguarding and Volunteers.
- b) Councillor Steve Cooper said that he dealt with documents such as this in his professional work and found these to be of very high standard.

It was proposed by Councillor Steve Cooper, seconded by Councillor Phil Warren and unanimously resolved to:
adopt the Health and Safety, Safeguarding Young People, Safeguarding Adults and Volunteer Policies as attached to Report 89/21 for this meeting.

117/21 CARBON EMISSION REDUCTION AUDIT

- a) Councillor Steve Cooper introduced this Agenda item on behalf of the Sustainability and Biodiversity Working Group's recommendation that the Town Council adopt the Carbon Emission Reduction framework attached to Report 90/21.
- b) He said that he was keen for Ventnor to as Green as possible and regarded this as establishing a benchmark to work from, adding that one of his priorities was to work with local businesses and other local organisations to adopt a similar approach.
- c) Councillor Brian Lucas said that the Town Council should use the Audit as its own starting point to ensure it is well placed to recommend it to others.

It was proposed by Councillor Steve Cooper, seconded by Councillor Steph Toogood and unanimously resolved to:
adopt the Health and Safety, Safeguarding Young People, Safeguarding Adults and Volunteer Policies as attached to Report 90/21 for this meeting.

118/21 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

- a) The Town Clerks' Report – 91/21 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions at this time.
- b) It included the appointment of a new member of staff, the latest meeting of the South Wight Parishes Health and Wellbeing Forum, a local Litter Pick, Remembrance Sunday arrangements, the latest meeting with the town's MP and the meetings of the Working Groups.
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PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Mayor re-opened the Public Forum and three members of the public shared their concerns for additional facilities for the town's young people including the restoration of the Skate Park.
- b) The Mayor stressed the Town Council's commitment to continuing to extend the opportunities for young people and invited the Town Council's Community Development Officer to summarise its exiting provision including an update on the plans of the Skatepark Committee for the restoration of the facility.
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119/21+ EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

In view of the confidential nature of the following item.

It was proposed by Councillor Ian Bond, seconded by Councillor Phil Warren and unanimously 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 9pm

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR	DATE
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