



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS

7PM

14 FEBRUARY 2022

Members Present

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

MINUTE SUBJECT

PRESENTATION OF THE HIGH SHERIFF'S AWARDS

- a) The Mayor welcomed the High Sheriff to the meeting who introduced himself by saying that he was one of 65 High Sheriffs in the country - one in each County - and that he had met many people who've done something extraordinary during his year of office.
- b) He then presented his Awards to Marzena Turner and Joyce Milford for their work with Baby Box adding that he was thrilled that Baby Box started in Ventnor and is now known across the Island.
- c) Then he gave his Award to Steve Northern for his work with the Ventnor Food Bank, congratulating him and the other volunteers involved for ensuring that Ventnor still had a Food Bank following the withdrawal of the Trussell Trust provision.
- d) The Mayor thanked the High Sheriff for his visit and support.

PUBLIC FORUM

- a) There were no members of the public present at this time.
- b) County Councillor Rodney Downer was present and his report had been previously circulated to Members.
- c) He said he had been pleased to attend the Wellbeing Café and appreciated its excellent work.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest at this time.

13/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Julie Hutchison.

14/22 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 10 January 2022, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 25 January and 1 February 2022 were noted.

15/22 LOWTHERVILLE WARD CO-OPTION

The outcome of the Co-option process to fill the vacancy for a Member to represent the Lowtherville Ward was recorded in Report 11/22 for this meeting.

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

to appoint Dave Logan as a Member for Lowtherville Ward.

Dave Logan joined Members at the table and signed the Acceptance of Office form.

16/22 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance Report for this meeting, 12/22, had been previously circulated to Members and

included information on Bank Balances at 31 January 2022 and a list of all payments made during January 2022.

- b) Also included was a listing of budget variances during the first ten months of the financial year.
- c) The Mayor congratulated staff on successfully accessing the Housing Support Fund.

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

17/22 FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT

- a) The basis for the annual review of the Financial Risk Assessment by the Town Council was set out in Report 13/22 for this meeting.
- b) The current arrangements for the management of financial risks had been previously circulated to Members in advance of the meeting for comment and amendment.

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

the Town Council approves and adopts the circulated list of arrangements for the management of financial risk.

18/22 BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2022/23

- a) A copy of the draft Budget for 2022/23 and the Precept required to fund it was attached to Report 14/22 for this meeting.
- b) The Mayor thanked the Clerk for the detailed work needed to reach this stage and highlighted the fact that it represents a 6% increase, caused by inflation, the restoration of the Beach Safety service and the growth of the much appreciated Wellbeing Café.
- c) He added that 52% of the total was needed to retain services from which the Isle of Wight Council had withdrawn funding.
- d) Councillor Phil Warren said it was a remarkable achievement to achieve such a small increase while retaining a wide range of essential services.
- e) Councillor Steve Cooper stressed that the Town Council should be proud of the range of services it provided and advertise it widely.
- f) Councillor John Watkins told the meeting that the Wellbeing Café provides great relief for members and that they are also raising money to provide additional activities.
- g) Councillor Brian Lucas added that Councillors worked hard on it as well to achieve a tight budget.

It was proposed by Councillor Steph Toogood, seconded by Councillor John Watkins and unanimously resolved that the Town Council:

- i) adopts the Budget presented with this Report;
 - ii) confirms its Precept-related Budget for 2022/23 to be £378,370; and
 - iii) authorises the Town Clerk to inform the Isle of Wight Council accordingly.
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19/22 SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

- a) Further to the discussion of a draft policy at its January meeting an informal meeting of Members and relevant staff took place on 26 January.
- b) A revised draft arising from that meeting was attached to Report 16/22 for this meeting.
- c) Councillor Ian Bond identified some amendments agreed at the informal meeting that had not been included

It was proposed by Councillor Ian Bond, seconded by Councillor Steve Cooper and unanimously resolved that:

the Town Council adopts the Social Media Policy draft attached to Report 16/22 for this meeting

incorporating the amendments referred to above.

20/22 PARK SIGNAGE

- a) Damage to the main grassed area of the Park caused by football games and concerns about dogs not under control prompted a discussion of signage by the Assets and Services Working Group Meeting of 11 January.
- b) The Town Council's Business Development Officer provided some draft proposals for suitable signage based on extensive research of that used in other Council owned Parks for discussion at its meeting of 25 January that agreed this, together with costings, be presented to this meeting.
- c) Councillor Brian Lucas commented that he was pleased to see it will be an information board that also includes advice and should stress unacceptable behaviours.
- d) Councillor Ian Bond welcomed the inclusion of a map with clear signage and added it would be useful to sign exits to other places, adding that Members should see the map before production of the actual sign and asked if it was really necessary to ban barbeques.
- e) The Mayor said that the quoted price represented good value for money.

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

install signage at both entrances to the Park and approve the quotation from Signpost Express in the sum of £1,240, subject to approval of the final design by Members.

21/22 BEACH SAFETY

- a) Report 18/22 identified a proposal to reinstate the Beach Safety Project and employ the two additional part-time staff needed to provide cover from 11am – 6pm for the period 1 June to 30 September

It was proposed by Councillor John Watkins, seconded by Councillor Steph Toogood and unanimously resolved to:

approve the temporary employment of two Beach Safety Workers for the period 1 June – 30 September this year at a predicted cost of £7,854.

22/22 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

- a) The Town Clerks' Report – 19/22 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions at this time.
 - b) It included Litter Picking, the High Street closure, the Household Support Fund, Ventnor Park Tree Works, the South Wight Parishes Health and Wellbeing Forum, the meetings of the Working Groups and Salisbury Gardens.
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The meeting closed at 7.50pm

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE
