



SEASONAL SERVICES

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 19/14

10 MARCH 2014

The purpose of this report is to ask Members to agree start and finish dates for the Beach Safety Project and the Paddling Pool operation for the 2014 season.

No. DETAIL

1) BACKGROUND

- a) The Beach Safety project has been managed by Ventnor Town Council using funding provided by the Isle of Wight Council in a total of £6,250 for each of the last three seasons.
 - b) This has provided for one full time staff member supported by volunteers for the number of weeks agreed by the Town Council each year.
 - c) When the Isle of Wight Council withdrew funding for the Paddling Pools at East Cowes, Ryde and Ventnor last year, the Town Council agreed to take over the management and funding for the Pool during the season. A sponsorship donation of £1,000 was received last year from the owners of the local Spar shops and that offer has been made available for this year too.
 - d) The work required for the preparation of the Pool and its daily maintenance was delivered through the appointment of two part-time staff who had both previously worked on the Pools when employed by the Isle of Wight Council. A budget provision of £5,000 has been included to provide for the same arrangements this year.
-

2) BEACH SAFETY PROJECT

- a) No Budget provision has been made for this project this year as it was thought likely that the Isle of Wight Council funding would no longer be available and that it would therefore be considered as part of the contingency provision for reduced local services.
 - b) In the event, the Isle of Wight Council has agreed to provide the funding for the 2014/15 year, though not beyond that.
 - c) However, the grant level has remained the same since the 2011 season and with increases in the living wage and other costs it no longer provides sufficient funds for the length of time the Town Council has felt the project needs to be in operation: for example, in the 2013 season the budget of £6,250 was overspent by £1,172, and that would have been reflected in the recommendations for budget provision this season had this project been included in those discussions.
 - d) Consequently, if the number of weeks for the 2014 season is agreed as in the recommendations below, the Town Council is asked to formally approve an additional allocation of £1,250 from the contingency provided to protect local services.
-

3) PADDLING POOL

- a) It is understood that the same two people who serviced the Paddling Pool to such a high standard last year are available this year on the same basis.
 - b) Additional work will be required from them this year as the necessary annual repairs and repainting required before it opens was funded last year by the Isle of Wight Council.
 - c) However, the budget provision for the Pool has been increased for 2014/15 to take account of that.
-

4) RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are recommended to authorise the Town Clerk to make all necessary arrangements for the delivery of the Beach Safety Project and the availability of the Paddling Pool for the 22 weeks from Friday 11 April to Sunday 14 September and to authorise the allocation of an additional £1,250 to the Beach Safety project as outlined in paragraph 2 above.
