



# WAR MEMORIAL RESTORATION

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

10 SEPTEMBER 2012

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with the background to the attached grant application to the War Memorials Trust and current information on projected costs and identified funding.

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**No.   DETAIL**

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**1)   BACKGROUND**

- a) The Town Council first considered the potential need for restoration work on the Ventnor War Memorial at its meeting of 10 October 2011 when it resolved: *the Town Clerk be delegated to work with Councillors Harry Rees and Jim Toogood on clarifying and costing the available options in order to report back to the Town Council.*
- b) The report back came to the Town Council meeting of 20 February 2012 showing an estimated total cost of the necessary works, including underpinning, of £31,590.

A further report, to the Town Council Meeting of 16 April 2012, provided the basis for the unanimous resolution that:

- i) subject to the full funding package becoming available the restoration project be implemented;*
  - ii) a full funding application be made to the War Memorials Trust in advance of their deadline of 30 September 2012;*
  - iii) the funding of the work of the Conservation Architect and the procurement process be approved from the Town Council's provision for the project in the current year's Budget; and*
  - iv) powers to progress the project be delegated to the Town Clerk, advised by Councillors Harry Rees and Jim Toogood with regular reporting on progress to the Town Council.*
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**2)   TENDER PROCESS**

- a) Following the engagement of the required Conservation Architect and further investigative work, a tender process in line with the Town Council's Financial Regulations was launched by letters to four island based building companies judged to work to the required standards and sensitivities.
  - b) Three completed tenders were received by the response deadline of noon on Friday 24 August 2012 and were opened by the Assistant Town Clerk in the presence of Councillor Jim Toogood and the Town Clerk.
  - c) In the following discussion, it was agreed to nominate Ingrams Building Contractors as the Town Council's preferred bidder on the grounds that although having a higher quoted cost than one other tenderer, once the quotations were compared on a like-for-like basis, that difference disappeared.
  - d) The preferred bidder quotation is attached with this report on a confidential basis.
  - e) All three quotations are of course available for inspection by Members at the Town Council's office.
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**3)   FUNDING REQUIREMENT**

- a) The funding requirement is a combination of the Preferred Bidder's quotation of £34,423 and the projected charges for the work of the Conservation Architect currently quoted at £3,995, giving a total of £38,418 excluding VAT.
  - b) However, inspection of the VAT regulations for work of this nature indicates that although the Town Council is registered for VAT, the VAT element will not be reclaimable, adding a further £7,684 to the funding requirement and bringing the total to £46,102.
  - c) A request to Glanvilles, the Town Council's Solicitors, for formal legal advice on the VAT element resulted in a suggestion that it be sought from Moore Stephens (South) LLP and their advice is awaited at the time of writing this report.
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#### 4) FUNDING IDENTIFIED

- a) The application to the War Memorials Trust is attached for Members' information. As previously reported, the Trust has the power to award 50% of the costs of restoration work of this nature up to a maximum project cost of £40,000, ie a maximum grant of £20,000.
- b) The earlier submission of an Expression of Interest for this project to the Trust resulted in the approval of it as a project that could be considered for funding on receipt of a completed final application and supporting documentation. The next deadline for applications is 30 September 2012.
- c) The Town Council's budget already includes a contribution of £5,000 for this project and that has subsequently been matched by a further £5,000 from the Isle of Wight Council's Economic Improvement Fund.
- d) Ventnor Rotary Club have already earmarked a donation of £1,000 towards the project.
- e) The total of identified potential funding to date is therefore £31,000. A further £3,000 may be available if the Isle of Wight Council agrees a request to reallocate the £1,500 grant from its Economic Improvement Fund for the replacement of the Weather Station fencing, given that it has already been replaced by someone else. The Town Council would be required to similarly reassign its budgeted £1,500 for this purpose in order to provide the required match.
- f) This would bring the total of potentially available funding to £34,000 provided the War Memorials Trust offers its maximum grant.
- g) Councillor Harry Rees and the Town Clerk met with members of the Ventnor Branch of the Royal British Legion to discuss the projected shortfall. The current project costs and currently identified funding were shared with them and subject to discussions with their Committee they were very positive about the possible of closing the funding gap by local appeal.

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#### 5) CONCLUSION

- a) The submission of a final application to the War Memorial Trust by the 30 September 2012 deadline is authorised by Minute 47/12 of the Town Council Meeting of 16 April 2012 as quoted above in section 1b).
  - b) That Minute also resolves that the implementation of the project is dependent on the full funding requirement becoming available.
  - c) In that context, the Town Council may wish to thank the Ventnor Branch of the Royal British Legion for its willingness to launch and lead a local appeal to fill the funding gap as currently understood.
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