



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS

7PM

14 MARCH 2022

Members Present

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

MINUTE SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

- a) There was one member of the public present at this time who spoke about the importance of protecting wild life from the impacts of the current weed killing spray and what she had heard from County Councillor Phil Jordan about the contractual requirements in the PFI.
- b) She asked that advance notice about spraying times and spaces be made available in advance.
- c) The Mayor agreed that the blanket spraying is unacceptable and that Island Roads need to be held to account.
- d) Councillor James Toogood said an alternative substance had been tried very successfully in two areas: North Street Playground and the Paddling Pool area.
- e) County Councillor Rodney Downer had sent his apologies and had provided a Report that was circulated to Members in advance of the meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest at this time.

23/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Steph Toogood.

24/22 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 14 March 2022, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 8 March 2022 were noted.

25/22 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance Report for this meeting, 20/22, had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 28 February 2022 and a list of all payments made during February 2022.
- b) Also included was a listing of budget variances during the first eleven months of the financial year.

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

26/22 VENTNOR YOUTH CLUB AT BONIFACE FIELDS

- a) Report 21/22 for this meeting set out the proposal to develop the double-decker Portacabins at Boniface Fields into a new Ventnor Youth Centre as the next stage of the development of the Town Council's Youth Work.
- b) The Mayor introduced the Report, noting the local and Island-wide concern about the level of support for young people.

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- c) Councillor James Toogood responded to the Mayor's invitation to describe the accommodation that would be available and the plans to install a toilet and kitchen to be grant funded.
 - d) Councillor Phil Warren described the four buildings on the site and the support for the development from the Community Shed and the Allotments.
 - e) Tony McCarthy explained the context for and the potential of the development building on the established track record of the Town Council's youth work.
 - f) The proposal was recommended by both the Assets and Services Working Group and the Community Development Working Group.
 - g) The Mayor thanked Tony McCarthy and Jordan Royl for their contribution to the meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor John Watkins, seconded by Councillor Mark Jefferies and unanimously resolved to:

agree the use of the double-decker Portacabins in Boniface Fields as the town's new, dedicated Ventnor Youth Centre.

27/22 BEACH SAFETY

- a) Report 22/22 recorded the recruitment process for the appointment to the two new part-time temporary posts of Beach Safety Workers from 1 June to 30 September.
- b) Councillor James Toogood, a member of the selection panel, said he felt the process had resulted in two excellent appointments
- c) Councillor Ian Bond commented that the outcome was very good news.

It was proposed by Councillor James Toogood, seconded by Councillor Brian Lucas and unanimously resolved that the Town Council:

confirms the appointment of the two Beach Safety Workers identified in Report 22/22 for this meeting.

28/22 ISLE OF WIGHT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (IWALC)

- a) An invitation to the Town Council to rejoin IWLAC from its Chair has been received by the Mayor and is attached to Report 23/22 together with a Briefing Note from the Clerk on the reasons why the Town Council decided in 2017 to move to the Hampshire Association of Local Council Clerks.
- b) The Mayor introduced the report, reminding Members of the reasons that the Town Council of 2017 had decided to withdraw from IWALC.
- c) Councillor Brian Lucas recalled previous Mayors' reports of frustration at the operation of IWALC but felt that it is now a different organisation working to a new Island Administration

It was proposed by Councillor Brian Lucas, seconded by Councillor Ian Bond and unanimously resolved to:

- i) Rejoin the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils with effect from 1 April 2022; and
 - ii) appoint Councillor Steve Cooper as the Town Council's representative and Councillor Julie Hutchison as Deputy.,
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29/22 GLYPHOSATE USE

A resolution opposing the continuing use of Glyphosate in Ventnor and the Island by Councillor Mark Jefferies was attached to Report 24/22 for this meeting.

- a) Councillor Mark Jefferies introduced the item, reminding the meeting that Island Roads had decided not to use it but have now reversed that decision.
 - b) He referred to County Councillor Phil Jordan's email today pointing out the contractual issues and asked the Meeting to note that there are two decisions, one for Ventnor and another for the whole island.
 - c) Councillor John Watkins pointed out that it is not only the lizards that are endangered by the current spraying arrangements but all insects
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- d) Councillor Brian Lucas said there was not enough selective spraying and care instead of the indiscriminate spraying widely used.
 - e) Councillor Steve Cooper stressed the importance of an impact assessment.
 - f) Councillor John Watkins added that it would be useful to work with Freshwater following their recent resolutions on the issue.

It was proposed by Councillor Mark Jefferies, seconded by Councillor John Watkins and unanimously resolved to:

- a) write to the Isle of Wight Council and Island Roads requesting a blanket ban on the use of Glyphosate Weedkiller specifically in Ventnor, and more generally across the Island; and
 - b) return to the matter of the use of Glyphosate by the Town Council's contractor at the next meeting.
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PLANNING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

- a) Report 25/22 proposed the appointment of Councillor Mark Jefferies as a member of the Town Council's Planning Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Steve Cooper, seconded by Councillor Phil Warren and unanimously resolved to:

appoint Councillor Mark Jefferies as a Member of its Planning Committee.

31/22 NEW WEB SITE

- a) Progress by the New Web Site Working Group was summarised in Report 26/22 and its Chair, Councillor Ian Bond, expanded on it and responded to Members' comments and questions.
- b) He explained that at the launch all statutory information would be included with other segments to be added in due course.
- c) He reported that the Group propose to move to .gov.uk for the site and email addresses.

It was proposed by Councillor Ian Bond, seconded by Councillor Dave Logan and unanimously resolved to:

- i) delegate authority to the Clerk to release the Council's new web site by the end of March; and
 - ii) apply for the ventnortowncouncil.gov.uk domain.
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32/22 TIME AND TIDE BELL PROJECT UPDATE

Councillor Phil Warren updated Members following the recent meeting in the Green Room with the project leaders.

33/22 BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND SECOND CONSULTATION

Report 28/22 outlined the purpose of and arrangements for responding to the Boundary Commission for England's second consultation on the revised Constituency Boundaries for Parliamentary Elections and the proposed arrangements for the Island.

Councillor Ian Bond said that he felt the Town would get more attention from its future MP if it remained in the West Constituency.

Councillor Brian Lucas commented that Ventnor is a semi-rural town and thus has more in common with West Wight.

It was proposed by Councillor Ian Bond, seconded by Councillor Brian Lucas and unanimously resolved to:

submit a response to the consultation of the Town Council's support for the Town to remain in the West Constituency.

33/22 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

- a) The Town Clerks' Report – 29/22 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town
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Council decisions at this time.

- b) It included the Household Support Funding, the meeting with Isle of Wight Council Officers, Mental Health Wellbeing Funding, the Living Well and Early Help Project, the latest meeting of the South Wight Parishes Health and Wellbeing Forum, the latest meeting dates of the Working Groups, collection point for Ukraine and the Town Council's Development Programme.
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The meeting closed at 8.40pm

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE