



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS

7PM

11 APRIL 2022

Members Present

Councillors: Stephen Cockett (Chair), Steph Toogood, 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 were four members of the public present one of whom asked if the Town Council was aware that any products for controlling weeds contain glyphosate and similar chemicals and are they comfortable with their use in our town given the damage they cause to our wildlife and insects when they are used indiscriminately.
- b) The Mayor assured members of the public that all these matters would be addressed in the later Agenda item.
- c) Another member of the public said that there were safe alternatives and the Isle of Wight Council is aware of two them.
- d) County Councillor Rodney Downer was present and had provided a Report that was circulated to Members in advance of the meeting. He added that he had arranged for Southern Water to respond to the issues caused by the overflowing stream into the area around Shore Road Toilets

33/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Councillor John Watkins declared an interest in the item referring to Babybox

34/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no Apologies for Absence as all Members were present.

35/22 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 14 March 2022, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.

36/22 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance Report for this meeting, 30/22, had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 March 2022 and a list of all payments made during March 2022.
- b) Also included was a listing of budget variances during the financial year.

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

37/22 RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS 2021/22

- a) The Receipts and Payments Accounts for the financial year 2021/22 were attached to Report 31/22 for this meeting.
- b) The Report included the information that as the Town Council's turnover again exceeded £200,000 its Annual Accounts are required to be on an Income and Expenditure basis that will be available for its May or June meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor Mark Jefferies, seconded by Councillor Dave Logan and unanimously resolved to:

accept the Receipts and Payments Accounts for 2021/22 attached to this Report.

38/22 ISLAND POVERTY

- a) Report 32/22 identified the 12 Island areas ranked in the 20% most deprived in England in the context of the impact to the predicted increases in the cost of living.
- b) The Mayor introduced the item and thanked the staff team for their work in this area and referred to the news that the town's Food Bank is running out of food and donations.
- c) Councillor Dave Logan said that Tony is already working with other groups related to this concern and that it is now time to have more contact with people on the ground.

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

explore the potential for collaborative working with the other Town and Parish Councils that have significantly deprived areas within their remit.

39/22 VENTNOR CENTRAL HEADS OF TERMS

- a) New Heads of Terms from the Isle of Wight Council as the basis for the Town Council's continuing management of the old Youth Centre had been previously circulated to Members attached to Report 33/22 for this meeting.
- b) The document was considered by the Assets and Services Working Group meeting of 29 March and it was agreed to recommend its adoption to the Town Council.
- c) Councillor James Toogood said that it is important for the Isle of Wight Council to arrange for the repair to the guttering and the rear exit.
- d) Councillor Brian commented that the Heads of Terms seem very reasonable given the condition and limited possible uses of the building.

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

agree the attached Heads of Terms as the basis for the Town Council's continuing management of the old Ventnor Youth Centre.

40/22 VENTNOR WILD GARDENS CHALLENGE 2022

- a) The Town Council's Sustainability and Biodiversity Working Group has recommended the launch of a Wild Gardens Challenge 2022.
- b) Councillor Steve Cooper introduced the proposal saying that it had arisen from conversations with residents and agreed by the Sustainability and Biodiversity Working Group as offering an excellent means of focusing on and responding to the major issue of climate change.
- c) He thanked Maggie Nelms for suggesting the project and doing much of the work in developing it.
- d) Councillor Steph Toogood asked if this was a national or local proposal and thanked Councillor Steve Cooper for the wide range of objectives.
- e) Councillor Phil Warren commented that it was a brilliant opportunity to raise the profile of climate change.

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

accept the proposal as set out in the Report and make a start as soon as possible.

41/22 PLATINUM JUBILEE TREE PLANTING

- a) The Deputy Mayor introduced a proposal to plant a tree in Ventnor Park to mark the Platinum Jubilee as set out in Report 35/22
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- b) She said she was pleased to have secured a suitable tree at a cost of only £65.
 - c) Councillor Phil Warren said he supported both the action and the choice of tree at a very good price.

It was proposed by Councillor James Toogood, seconded by Councillor Steve Cooper and unanimously resolved to:

plant a tree in Ventnor Park to mark the Platinum Jubilee on the basis outlined in section 1 of Report 35/22 for this meeting

42/22 PADDLING POOL AREA PAVEMENT GAMES

- a) The Town Council's Assets and Services Working Group has recommended the Town Council to agree to purchase three children's pavement games to be installed in the area of the Paddling Pool.
- b) The Deputy Mayor introduced the item saying that the Paddling Pool is an iconic area and would benefit from introducing some traditional pavement games that are bright and fun.
- c) She added that the games could have cost more to put down than to buy but a contractor had offered to do the works for £90.
- d) The Town Council's Health and Safety Officer Nigel Slater-Bishop confirmed that he had carried out a risk assessment that showed no reason not to proceed with the proposal.

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

agree the purchase and installation of the three pavement games attached to Report 36/22 in the Paddling Pool area.

43/22 GLYPHOSATE USE

- a) The Mayor introduced the item advising Members not to return to the use of the substance by the Isle of Wight Council or Island Roads as that had been addressed at the March meeting.
- b) He said that some sensitive spaces have already been exempted from Glyphosate use such as the North Street Playground and the Paddling Pool.
- c) He added that there is no simple like-for-like replacement and that alternatives are generally more expensive and less efficient and the two Award Winning areas of the Park and the Cascade need effective treatment.
- d) Councillor Mark Jefferies agreed and said there is relatively little use elsewhere in the other areas the Town Council is responsible for and that the edging of paths is the major problem.
- e) Councillor James Toogood pointed out that paths and roads are the responsibility of Island Roads and suggested that research for alternatives should continue with the funding of the chosen alternative to be included in the 2023/24 budget.
- f) Councillor Steve Cooper said that he was not comfortable with use of Glyphosate at all.
- g) Councillor Phil Warren argued that a final decision needed to be delayed until costs are available.

It was proposed by Councillor John Watkins, seconded by Councillor Steve Cooper and unanimously resolved to:

ban Glyphosate use on non-ornamental areas with a view to undertake costings of ceasing its use everywhere.

44/22 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

- a) The Town Clerks' Report – 38/22 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions at this time.
 - b) It included Household Support Funding, Energise YOUth Funding, our new Web site, Living Well and Early Help Programme, the South Wight Parishes Health and Wellbeing Forum meeting, the latest meetings of the Working Groups, the Island MP's meeting for Town and Parish Councils and the Development Programme.
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The meeting closed at 8.25pm

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE
