



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS

7PM

12 SEPTEMBER 2022

## Members Present

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

## MINUTE SUBJECT

### PUBLIC FORUM

- a) There was one member of the public present.
- b) County Councillor Rodney Downer was present and had provided his written report.

## 85/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest at this time.

### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

## 86/22 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 8 August 2022, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings of 23 and 30 August 2022 were noted.

## 87/22 FAMILY VOICE

- a) The Family Voice Documentary made by Utility Films was shown to Members at the start of this item as identified in Report 61/22.
- b) The Documentary, commissioned by the Town Council, was based entirely on recordings of local residents' experience of poverty.
- c) Councillor Steve Cooper commented that the film was an excellent demonstration that poverty is a huge problem not easy to address and while there were real positives in people helping people we need to engage in the political arena as that is where power lies.
- d) Councillor Brian Lucas said it was a shock to hear the impact of poverty on real lives; people should not have to swallow their pride and should have enough money not to have to do that.
- e) Councillor John Watkins' response was to say he was furious that citizens are in avoidable pain; a country as rich as ours should not be putting people through this.
- f) Councillor Phil Warren thanked the film makers for the film adding that it was good to see the strength of community responses and that we need to use the film widely.
- g) Councillor James Toogood commented that it is dreadful for parents that are unable to provide for their children and this film needs to be circulated widely.
- h) Councillor Jefferies also thanked the film makers as such shocking experiences should not be happening, adding that he had seen people slipping below the poverty line in his own area of the town.
- i) Councillor Dave Logan said that he sees this in his daily work and that although the community has been brilliant it cannot be enough; the long-standing contract that if you get a job you'll have enough to live on is broken and no longer works.
- j) Councillor Stephen Cockett welcomed the unique and timely film saying that he agreed with everything he had heard and that the film needs to be seen widely.

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- k) Councillor Julie Hutchison said she found it heart-breaking that people are in these situations.
  - l) County Councillor Rodney Downer suggested it could be shown in schools.
  - m) The Mayor added that she is saddened that poverty like this left no room for any joy in life and that she was proud to be part of this Town Council's pioneering response to these issues.

**It was proposed by Councillor Mark Jefferies, seconded by Councillor James Toogood and unanimously resolved to:**

- i) welcome the documentary;
- ii) thank those residents that contributed to it and the makers of it; and
- iii) ask the staff team to arrange for it to be shown to as many as possible appropriate audiences.

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**88/22 FINANCE REPORT**

- a) The Finance Report for this meeting 62/22, had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 August 2022 and a list of all payments made during August 2022.
- b) Councillor Stephen Cockett asked about the overspend on the Beach Safety Project and the Town Clerk provided an explanation for it.

**It was proposed by Councillor Steve Cooper, seconded by Councillor James Toogood and unanimously resolved to:**  
agree the Finance Report.

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**89/22 LEASE OF CENTRAL CAR PARK SPACES**

- a) Report 63/22 identified concerns raised by the Assets and Services Working about some terms included in the draft lease issued by the Isle of Wight Council for the four spaces in the Central Car park occupied by the new public toilet.
- b) Councillor Brian Lucas provided more information on the reasons for the concerns in respect of the break clause and the proposed basing of the annual rent review on the RPI.

**It was unanimously agreed to:**  
ask the Town Clerk to refer the concerns back to the Isle of Wight Council.

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**90/22 INNER WHEEL TOILET TWINNING PROPOSAL**

Report 64/22 set out a proposal by the town's Inner Wheel to twin the new public toilet with one in Choma, Zambia through a charity the group is supporting this year.

**It was proposed by Councillor Dave Logan, seconded by Councillor John Watkins and unanimously resolved to:**  
agree to the twinning of the Town's new public toilet with one in Choma, Zambia.

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**91/22 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT**

- a) The Town Clerks' Report – 65/22 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions at this time.
- b) It included details of another two successful funding applications, a trip out by members of the Wellbeing Café, the tender for the management of Ventnor Haven, the monthly meeting with the town's two County Councillors and the dates of the Working Groups meetings.

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The meeting closed at 8pm

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SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE