



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS

7PM

10 OCTOBER 2022

Members Present

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

## MINUTE SUBJECT

### PUBLIC FORUM

- a) A member of the public, a resident of Belgrave Road, represented the concerns of residents about the problematic use of the road that would be exacerbated by restoring it to its original condition and had emailed a summary of the issues to the Clerk that had been circulated to Members.
- b) He asked that the Town Council represent the residents' concerns.
- c) County Councillor Rodney Downer was unable to be present and had provided his written report.

### 92/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Mayor and Councillor James Toogood declared an interest in item 7 on the Agenda.

### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Watkins and Julie Hutchison.

### 93/22 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 12 September 2022, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 26 September 2022 were noted.

### 94/22 FINANCE REPORT

The Finance Report for this meeting 66/22, had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 30 September 2022 and a list of all payments made during September 2022.

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

### 95/22 FAMILY VOICE

- a) The response priorities identified by the 12 discussion groups at the viewing of the Family Voice documentary on Monday 3 October were attached to report 67/22 for this meeting.
- b) The Mayor introduced the item commenting that the evening was very successful and the contributions from the audience were very encouraging.
- c) Councillor Brian Lucas asked if there was any money in the budget that could be used to develop any of the proposed responses; the Clerk confirmed that no funds had been earmarked for that purpose but Members could agree to make some use of Reserves.
- d) The Mayor said that she had been offered a large room at the Mill Bay for use as a Warm Space and given the use of the Met on Saturday November 19 to hold an auction.
- e) Other sources of funding support were discussed with a view to drawing in additional funding support.

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- f) The Clerk informed Members that feedback from the Family Voice meeting was still being received and that the staff would provide a summary of all the responses in the coming weeks.
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**96/22 CLIMATE CHANGE CONSULTATION**

- a) A proposal from the Town Council's Sustainability and Biodiversity Working Group for a Climate Change Consultation process was attached to Report 68/22.
- b) Councillor Cockett introduced the item referring to temperature fluctuations both up and down against the norm and invited comment on the six objectives set out in the Working Group's report.
- c) He added that arrangements for the first of four proposed meetings, to be held in St Lawrence, were already underway.
- d) Councillor Steve Cooper said that this is the most important issue we have to address as it is human activity that is driving the changes with impacts on wild life already evident adding that the consultation meetings will be an effective way of raising awareness of the issues.
- e) Councillor James Toogood commented that a lot of trees are going to be lost unless things change.
- f) Councillor Brian Lucas: said that there had been increasing information on the issues over the last 20 years but now that evidence is conclusive residents don't always know how to access and respond to it.

**It was proposed by Councillor James Toogood, seconded by Councillor Dave Logan and unanimously resolved to:**

agreed to support the consultation and funding for it of up to £250.

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**97/22 BELGRAVE ROAD**

- a) The Mayor introduced the item referring to the extensive consultation Island Roads arranged at the start of the works to reinstate the road that had ended in lack of agreement about its future.
- b) She mentioned the need for changes to the town's signage that should identify Belgrave Road as the main non-vehicular route to the Park, prior to noting that Island Roads now plan to restore the rat-run that makes it completely unsuitable for this purpose.
- c) Councillor James Toogood was clear that the pavement is simply not wide enough for prams, wheelchairs and disability support vehicles.
- d) Councillor Brian Lucas said that the argument that the Island Roads' contract requires original restoration is not valid given the health and safety issues it presented and will do again.
- e) Councillor Steve Cooper agreed and said the town Council should pressurise Island Roads on health and safety grounds.
- f) It was noted that the timing is challenging because the restored road is due to open in December.

**It was proposed by Councillor Mark Jefferies, seconded by Councillor Steve Cooper and unanimously resolved to:**

Inform both the Isle of Wight Council and Island Roads of the Town Council's disappointment and concerns that an unsafe route is being restored and ask the Mayor to consider a press release.

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**98/22 CHANGE TO PERMITTED PARKING CONSULTATION**

- a) The Mayor reminded the Council of a pre-consultation held last year attended by Members and Staff on the proposed new on-street parking proposals and that the full formal consultation is now open to 28 October
- b) She focused on St Catherine Street as the one that would have the greatest impact on residents, commenting that there are currently 27 cars parked in the road including seven disabled bays.
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- c) She added that there are seven places available at the Madeira Road end and the possibility of using Wheelers Bay car park.
  - d) Councillor Dave Logan agreed there is a problem with parking in this road but wanted to retain as much parking as possible.
  - e) Councillor Stephen Cockett commented that the proposed solution for Steephill Drive limited more parking than necessary.

**It was agreed to:**

reluctantly agree to the proposed changes while retaining as much parking as possible.

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**99/22 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT**

- a) The Town Clerks' Report – 71/22 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions at this time.
  - b) It included the conclusion of this season's Beach Safety project, the monthly meeting with the Isle of Wight Council's Beaches and Open Spaces team, the Awards for the Park and Cascade, the closure of the Marlborough Street Toilets and the dates of the Working Groups meetings.
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The meeting closed at 8.20pm

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE

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