



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS

7PM

9 JANUARY 2023

Members Present

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

MINUTE SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

- a) There were no members of the public present at this time.
- b) County Councillor Rodney Downer was present.

1/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor John Watkins declared an interest as a member of the Wellbeing Café.

2/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence as all Members were present.

3/23 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 12 December 2022 having been previously circulated to Members were taken as read.

4/23 FINANCE REPORT

The Finance Report for this meeting 1/23, had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 December 2022 and a list of all payments made during December 2022.

It was proposed by Councillor Steve Cooper, seconded by Councillor Stephen Cockett and unanimously resolved to:
accept the Finance Report

5/23 WELLBEING CAFÉ

- a) Report 2/23 included a summary of the development of the Town Council's Community Cafe and a proposal for its further extension supported by evidence from its users and external organisations.
- b) The Mayor introduced the Report, welcoming the development to date of the Café and referring to the major increase in membership.
- c) Councillor Steve Cooper said it had proved a resounding success and clearly demonstrated the growing need for mental health support and was a real success for the Town Council.
- d) Councillor James Toogood said the positive and lively atmosphere of the Group's meetings is remarkable
- e) Councillor John Watkins noted the generous funding support it had received from the community and asked that, in particular, a letter of thanks be sent to the landlord of the Crab & Lobster for their contributions.

It was proposed by Councillor Mark Jefferies, seconded by Councillor Phil Warren and unanimously resolved to:

agree the extension of the Wellbeing Café service to five sessions a week and the consequent salary cost to fund its Co-ordinator post on a 35-hour week basis.

6/23 WEB SITE REVIEW

- a) Attached to Report 3/23 for this meeting were detailed statistics prepared by the Town Council's Business Development Officer showing the levels of access to the new web site since its launch in April 2022 to the end of December
- b) The Mayor welcomed the success of new web site and the detailed information in tonight's report; she invited suggestions from Members for new areas that could be added.
- c) Councillor Ian Bond suggested that it would be good to have comparable statistics from other Councils noting that the average visit lasted around one minute; he added that he was surprised there had not been a higher increase during the summer given the number of visitors.
- d) The Mayor asked for one month figures for the next meeting and that Members explore the site meanwhile.

7/23 CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- a) The outcomes from the recent Public Engagement meetings on climate change related issues by the Town Council's Sustainability and Biodiversity Working Group were summarised in a document attached to Report 4/23.
- b) Councillor Stephen Cockett introduced the item, thanking everyone who took part in the meetings but acknowledged that the programme did not fully achieve the objectives the Group had set for the exercise.
- c) He informed the meeting that those that did take part were very pleased with the opportunity and people had come from other parts of the Island to observe the process.
- d) Councillor Steve Cooper observed that the response had been disappointing in spite of door-to-door leafleting, and stressed the importance of getting across the message that the planet faced a crisis.
- e) Councillor Brian Lucas said there had been much goodwill from the people who did come and that it is important to recognise that the response cannot be left solely to the government so there is a need to continue to set good examples.
- f) The Mayor concluded the discussion by saying that the Town Council is well-placed to move this agenda forward adding that it would be good for Councillor Julie Hutchison's write up of the engagement meetings to be shared.

8/23 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

- a) The Town Clerk's Report – 5/23 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions at this time.
- b) It included Christmas in Ventnor, the Wellbeing Café Christmas Lunch, an update on the Community Support Fund and dates of Working Groups meetings.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE

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