



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS

7PM

13 FEBRUARY 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

PRESENTATION OF THE HIGH SHERIFF'S AWARDS

- a) The Mayor welcomed the High Sheriff in full dress to the meeting who introduced herself by saying that she had met so many people who've done something extraordinary during her year of office and this was one of the High Sheriff's roles that is such a pleasure to carry out.
- b) She added that the Awards are selected on the basis of the appreciation of those in receipt of services. She outlined the services provided by this year's recipients to applause from Members. County Councillors Gary Peace and Rodney Downer were both present for the occasion.
- c) She then presented her Awards to Babybox, the Wellbeing Café and the Better Days Café.
- d) The Mayor thanked the High Sheriff for her visit and support for such worthwhile organisations.

PUBLIC FORUM

- a) There were no members of the public present at this time.
- b) County Councillors Rodney Downer and Gary Peace stayed for the Forum. Rodney told the meeting that he had cut back some overhanging growth with a small group of residents.

9/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

10/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

11/23 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 9 January 2023 having been previously circulated to Members were taken as read.

The Minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings of 10 and 26 January 2023 and 6 February will be circulated.

12/23 FINANCE REPORT

The Finance Report for this meeting 6/23, had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 January 2023 and a list of all payments made during January 2023.

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

accept the Finance Report

13/23 FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT

- a) The basis for the annual review of the Financial Risk Assessment by the Town Council was set out in Report 7/23 for this meeting.

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- b) The current arrangements for the management of financial risks had been previously circulated to Members in advance of the meeting for comment and amendment.

It was proposed by Councillor Phil Warren, seconded by Councillor James Toogood and unanimously resolved that:

the Town Council approves and adopts the circulated list of arrangements for the management of financial risk.

14/23 BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2023/24

- a) A copy of the draft Budget for 2023/24 and the Precept required to fund it was attached to Report 8/23 for this meeting.
- b) The Mayor thanked the Clerk for the detailed work needed to reach this stage and highlighted the fact that it represents an 11.97% increase on the Band D payment.

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

- i) adopts the Budget presented with this Report;
- ii) confirms its Precept-related Budget for 2023/24 to be £470,731; and
- iii) authorises the Town Clerk to inform the Isle of Wight Council accordingly.
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15/23 VENTNOR HAVEN

- a) Report 9/23 for this meeting provided an update on the Isle of Wight Council's new management arrangements for the Haven and its seaweed.
- b) Councillor Brian Lucas wanted assurance that the new contract included the same responsibility for the seaweed removal and the Clerk confirmed that it does.
- c) Councillor Cockett said it was good news for the town, providing long term provision for the seaweed removal.
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16/23 A NEW SIGN FOR ST LAWRENCE

- a) A proposal for a new entry sign to St Lawrence was attached to Report 10/23
- b) Councillor Stephen Cockett introduced the proposal noting that there are the two options for progressing it.
- c) In the first, the Town Council funds the sign and carries no maintenance responsibility; with the Island Roads installs the sign and the Town Council becomes responsible for its maintenance.
- d) He added that there would be no cost to the Town Council as it was intended to raise funds for it.

It was proposed by Councillor Dave Logan, seconded by Councillor John Watkins and unanimously resolved that the Town Council:

supports the installation of the sign as proposed on the basis of the first option.

17/23 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

- a) The Town Clerk's Report – 11/23 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions at this time.
- b) It included the launch of Our Space, the start of our new playgroup, Ventnor Youth Club, Rugby comes to town, Ventnor Day 2023, the Future of Local Councils and dates of Working Groups meetings.
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18/23 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

In view of the confidential nature of the following item:

it was proposed by Councillor James Toogood, seconded by Councillor Brian Lucas, and unanimously resolved under the Public Bodies Admissions to Meetings

(1960) Act to exclude the Public and Press whilst the next item is under discussion as it is of a confidential nature.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE

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