



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS

7PM

13 MARCH 2023

Members present

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

MINUTE SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

- a) 33 There were two members of the public present at this time.
- b) County Councillor Rodney Downer was present and told us of his surgery for residents in Bonchurch.
- c) The members of the public asked why the Better Days Café had not received financial support from the Town Council. The Mayor responded that the Café had been invited to meet with the Mayor and Clerk but as yet had not provided a date.

19/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor John Watkins declared an interest in the Coronation Mugs Agenda item as Vice-Chair of Ventnor Royal British Legion Social Club.

20/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Steve Cooper and Brian Lucas.

21/23 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 13 February 2023 having been previously circulated to Members were taken as read.

The Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting of 28 February 2023 were noted

22/23 FINANCE REPORT

The Finance Report for this meeting 13/23, had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 28 February 2023 and a list of all payments made during February 2023.

It was proposed by Councillor James Toogood seconded by Councillor Stephen Cockett and unanimously resolved to:
accept the Finance Report

23/23 HR COMMITTEE

- a) Councillor Steve Cooper had provided papers for the composition and Terms of Reference for the rebranded Staffing Committee now termed the HR Committee.
- b) The Clerk reminded Members of his statutory responsibilities in this area as Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer.

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

- i) appoints Councillors Steve Cooper, Brian Lucas, Ian Bond, Julie Hutchison, Steph Toogood, Mark Jefferies and Phil Warren as members of its HR Committee;
- ii) appoints Councillor Steve Cooper as Chair of its HR Committee; and
- iii) asks its HR Committee to bring draft new Terms of Reference for it to the Town Council meeting of 10 April.

24/23 CAR PARK CHARGES

- a) Report 14/23 for this meeting included calculations of the comparison between the increase in the charges applied to the Town Council's four car parks recommended by the Assets and Services Working Group and those that will soon be in place in the Isle of Wight Council car parks following its proposed increase.
- b) It was noted that the Town Council's charges applied to the Dudley Road, Market Street, Pound Lane and Shore Road car parks since it began their management in 2015 had remained unchanged to date/

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

agrees to increase the charges for use of its four car parks by the 30% rate recommended by its Assets and Services Working Group and to inform the Isle of Wight Council of the new rates.

25/23 No Mow May

- a) A motion proposed by Councillor Julie Hutchison to suspend the mowing of the town's grassed areas for the month of May was included in the papers for the meeting.
- c) Councillor Julie Hutchison introduced the item providing details of the application of this approach in other places.
- d) The Mayor reported on the discussions she had with the Town Council's Contractor who suggested introducing the practice in selected areas and that he was already doing that in some areas of his work for the Isle of Wight Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Julie Hutchison, seconded by Councillor Stephen Cockett and unanimously resolved that the Town Council:

agrees that its grassed areas will not be mowed during May except for the Park, the Cascades and Salisbury Gardens Green and to monitor the impact.

26/23 CORONATION MUGS

The Mayor proposed that the offer she had received for the provision of enough Coronation Mugs to be provided to the town's children be accepted

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

agrees to contribute to the cost of the mugs up to £300.

27/23 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

- a) The Town Clerk's Report – 18/23 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions at this time.
- b) It included the High Sheriff's Awards, the Public Meeting on the Sea Wall, the March Our Place session, support for residents, the upgrade of the Green Room kitchen and the meetings of the Working Groups.

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The meeting closed at 8.25p

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE

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