



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS 7PM

14 AUGUST 2023

Members present

Councillors: Steve Cooper (Chair), Mark Jefferies, Phil Warren, John Watkins, Ian Bond, Julie Hutchison, Dave Logan, Steve Milford, Steph Toogood

MINUTE SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

There were ten members of the public present.

- Mayor Steve Cooper welcomed members of the public and introduced Gareth Hughes, Ventnor Town Council's Responsible Finance Officer.
- Residents raised queries and concerns about the replacement of the Cascade railings by Island Roads.
- Councillor Steph Toogood and Business Development Officer Nigel Slater-Bishop both responded in detail about these plans, confirming that Island Roads will be attending the Isle of Wight Council's sea wall meeting at St Catherine's Church on Tuesday 22nd August, to provide further details of the proposed works.
- Further information will be published on VTC website.
- In collaboration with Island Roads, Nigel is reviewing all town signage.

55/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

56/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declaration of Interest received at this time.

57/23 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 12 June 2023, having been previously circulated to Members were taken as read.

The Minutes of the Extraordinary Town Council Meeting of 26 June 2023, having been previously circulated to Members were taken as read.

It was proposed by Councillor John Watkins, seconded by Councillor Phil Warren and resolved to:

accept the Minutes of Town Council meeting of 12 June 2023.

It was proposed by Councillor Mark Jefferies, seconded by Councillor Dave Logan and unanimously resolved to:

accept the Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of the Town Council of 26 June 2023.

58/23 FINANCE REPORT

The Finance Report for this meeting 38/23, had been previously circulated to Members and included information on bank balances at 30 June and 31 July 2023, with a list of all payments made during these two months.

It was proposed by Councillor Steph Toogood, seconded by Councillor Steve Milford and unanimously resolved to:

accept the Finance Report.

59/23 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The updated Financial Regulations were attached to Report 39/23 for this meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor Dave Logan, seconded by Councillor Ian Bond and unanimously resolved that:

- i) the Town Council approve the revised Financial Regulations as circulated.
 - ii) bank account signatories are Councillors Steve Cooper, Mark Jefferies, Steve Milford, RFO Gareth Hughes and Acting Town Clerk Alison Killick.
 - iii) cheques drawn on the bank account in accordance with paragraph 5b of Financial Regulations shall be signed by the Clerk or RFO and two Councillors.
 - iv) the daily payments limit be set at £30,000.
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60/23 APPOINTMENTS TO TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS

- a) Members are asked to appoint Councillor Julie Hutchison to the Town Council's Planning Committee as per previously circulated Report 40/23.
- b) Members are asked to appoint Councillor Mark Jefferies to the Town Council's Assets & Services Working Group.

It was proposed by Councillor Ian Bond, seconded by Councillor Phil Warren and unanimously resolved to:

- i) appoint Councillor Julie Hutchison to the Planning Committee.
 - ii) appoint Councillor Mark Jefferies to the Assets and Services Working Group.
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61/23 VTC NEWSLETTER

- a) Members are asked to consider the introduction of a new VTC Newsletter, details of which were previously circulated in Report 41/23.
- b) Councillor Steph Toogood commented about frequency of the newsletter and that the news must remain current/fresh.

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

- i) create a new newsletter, entitled VTC Newsletter.
 - ii) publish the newsletter on a monthly basis, starting September 2023
 - iii) approve the expenditure of £25 per issue, as a loose insert of 700-800 copies distributed in the South Wight Chronicle.
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62/23 A TOWN CRIER

- a) Members are asked to consider approval of a Town Crier in Ventnor, details of which were previously circulated in Report 42/23.
- b) Members are asked to consider the associated costs involved in such an appointment.
 - o After discussions ensued, possible costs of up to £2,000 became apparent.
 - o It was suggested that the appointed Town Crier could make his/her own costume.
 - o The idea in principle was well received, with Councillors feeling that a more suitable cost estimate is in the region of £200-£500.

It was unanimously resolved:

- i) to not approve the proposal at this stage but go out to public consultation before an informed decision can be made.
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63/23 BI-MONTHLY MEETINGS

- a) Members are asked to approve bi-monthly Town Council meeting dates for a trial period, as previously circulated in Report 43/23.

It was proposed by Councillor John Watkins, seconded by Councillor Mark Jefferies and unanimously resolved to:

approve the dates of 9 October and 11 December 2023 and 12 February 2024 as a trial period for bi-monthly Town Council meetings.

64/23 STREET CLEANER

- a) Members are asked to consider the possibility of Ventnor Town Council employing their own Street Cleaner, details of which were previously circulated in Report 44/23.
- b) Councillor Steph Toogood referred to a previous meeting held with the Acting Town Clerk and Island Roads, during which Island Roads agreed to reschedule their cleaning rota and arranged to swap the then Ventnor street sweeper with another from a different area – thereafter providing a far better service for Ventnor.

It was proposed by Councillor Steve Milford, seconded by Councillor John Watkins and unanimously resolved to:

agree that the HR Committee and Assets & Services Working Group investigates the proposal of employing a Street Cleaner and reports back their findings to full Council at a future date.

65/23 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

- i) The Town Clerk's Report 45/23 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions at this time.
 - ii) It included the Beach Safety Team, By-Election for Bonchurch & Ventnor East Ward, Ventnor Day, Ventnor Fringe, Warm Space, Ventnor Carnival, Busking, Ventnor Bowling Club, North Street Playground, Car Parking charges.
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66/23 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

In view of the confidential nature of the following item:

It was 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.

MINUTES OF THE HR COMMITTEE MEETING OF 24 JULY 2023 AND ADOPTION OF ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS.

The meeting closed at 8:15pm

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE
