



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS

7PM

14 OCTOBER 2024

Members present:-

Councillors: Steve Cooper (Chair), Steph Toogood, James Toogood, John Watkins, Steve Milford, Dave Logan, Mark Jefferies, Ian Bond, Linda Jefferies, Sam Smith

Also present:- Katherine Baldwin (Clerk), Morgan Williams (Policy, Projects and Premises Officer)

MINUTE SUBJECT

73/24 PUBLIC FORUM

There were 7 members of the public present.

Prior to the Public Forum, a presentation was given by Ernesto Polak-Harvey about being a youth in Ventnor. The topics covered were Climate Change, Education and Community and Social Networks.

A resident raised the matter of feeding the ducks in Ventnor Park. The resident had been feeding the ducks since 2002 when the Isle of Wight Council stopped providing duck feed. The resident noted that this was a cost to her in both time and money as the feed amounted to £250 per year. The Chair would add this matter to Policy and Resources Committee agenda for the meeting scheduled for 11th November 2024. Cllr Mark Jefferies noted that he had given a talk at the Well-Being Café about this matter and there were a few people interested in volunteering to feed the ducks.

Cllr Rodney Downer noted that the third borehole was due to be drilled in Leeson Road. Works would be starting at Monks Bay to address the issue with the Japanese Knotweed. If any resident would like to respond to the consultation on School Place Planning, they could do so by writing to County Hall in Newport or by emailing strategic.planning@iow.gov.uk.

Cllr Ed Blake noted that Ventnor Town Council had held a consultation for the Public Spaces Protection Order renewal in respect of Dogs on Beaches. The Isle of Wight consultation for the Public Spaces Protection Order renewal is now open. Cllr Blake noted that the School Place Planning was still in consultation phase. Cllr Blake had called in the PTEC proposal with the Isle of Wight Planning Committee which could be on the agenda for the meeting in mid-November. The matter of Bath Road had been referred to Court. Cllr Blake had met with Cllr Steph Toogood and Island Roads to discuss matters regarding the Esplanade. Lesson Road works are now in their sixth week and it is still unclear as to when the works will conclude. The Isle of Wight Council are aware that any works to the Graben would not be able to take place whilst Leeson road is closed.

74/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

75/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest received at this time.

76/24 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Cllr Ian Bond raised a point of accuracy in respect of 60/24 which contained a typographical error. Cllr Bond also noted that the text of the motion should be included in 68/24

It was unanimously resolved to:

Accept Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 12th August 2024, subject to the amendments raised by Cllr Ian Bond.

The Minutes of the: -

- Policy and Resources Committee 12 August 2024
- Buildings Maintenance Committee 15 August 2024
- Business and Community Committee 21 August 2024
- Policy and Resources Committee 27 August 2024
- Environment and Transport Committee 3 September 2024
- Planning Committee 3 September 2024
- Business and Community Committee 24 September 2024
- Policy and Resources Committee 30 September 2024

are for information only.

77/24 COMMUNITY AWARD

Cllr Steve Cooper explained that there was a tradition of recognising dedication and commitment to the community. A vote was taken by the Councillors and Brian Roberts, Maintenance Manager for Ventnor Town Council, had been selected to receive the Community Award this year.

Cllr Steve Cooper presented the Award to Brian Roberts.

78/24 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk gave an overview of the report which included information on summer events for 2024, Really Useful Thursdays and the consultation for the Public Spaces Protection Order renewal.

It was noted that the report is for information only.

79/24 FINANCE REPORT

It was noted that there is an overspend on salaries. Cllr Ian Bond raised the matter of Ventnor Day and the Town Clerk confirmed that there had been a financial loss for Ventnor Day this year. Cllr Steve Cooper noted the loss and explained that Ventnor Day needs to make a profit. Cllr Steve Cooper noted that Cllr Bond was correct to highlight the overspend on the budget and that there are things that the Town Council would like to do but cannot afford. Cllr Steph Toogood noted that changes to Ventnor Day for 2025 had been identified and discussed at the Business and Community Committee which would ensure the event would be more fiscally prudent.

Cllr Steve Milford noted that the pay award had not yet been allocated to the staff. The Town Clerk confirmed that the amount of the pay award had not yet been agreed and she had been advised by the Society of Local Council Clerks that a decision would not be made on the pay award until mid-October 2024 at the earliest with discussions still ongoing.

Cllr Dave Logan asked about the Zoom subscription and the Town Clerk confirmed that this subscription had been cancelled as the staff do not use the platform.

Cllr Mark Jefferies asked about a payment to the Isle of Wight Council for a Bandstand Licence and the Town Clerk confirmed that this was associated with Ventnor Day costs.

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

Accept the Finance Report.

80/24 EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

The Town Clerk had noted the outcomes of the External Audit Report with regard to minuting that the independence of the Internal Auditor had been considered by the Council. The Town Clerk informed Members that an Interim Internal Audit had been arranged with Maxine Warr as per the decision made at the Town Council meeting on 10th June 2024.

It was proposed by Councillor Sam Smith, seconded by Councillor Dave Logan, and unanimously resolved to:

Note and approve the Report and Certificate of the External Auditor in respect of the 2023-24 financial year.

81/24 COMPLAINTS POLICY

Cllr Ian Bond noted that Point 8 of the Complaints Policy required amendment to read “Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee” as the Committee structure had changed.

It was proposed by Councillor Linda Jefferies, seconded by Councillor James Toogood, and unanimously resolved to:

Approve the Complaints Policy subject to the amendment of Point 8 as highlighted by Cllr Ian Bond.

82/24 BUDGET PROCESS

The Town Clerk gave an overview of the proposed budget process which included an informal meeting of Members in early November followed by a presentation of the draft budget at the Town Council meeting in December.

Cllr Steve Milford asked if Committees would consider their own budgets in Committee meetings and feed that information into the draft budget. Cllr Ian Bond confirmed that he had already added this to the agenda for the next Buildings Maintenance Committee. Cllr Bond noted that the budget reporting needed to be considered. Cllr Steve Cooper noted that the Policy, Projects and Premises Officer would accompany the Town Clerk to the informal meeting to discuss this matter.

It was proposed by Councillor John Watkins , seconded by Councillor Ian Bond, and unanimously resolved to:

Approve the budget process as detailed in Report 46/24.

83/24 APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

The Town Clerk confirmed that there was one vacancy on the Planning Committee. Cllr Sam Smith expressed interest in filling the vacancy.

It was unanimously resolved to:

Appoint Cllr Sam Smith to the Planning Committee.

84/24 SCHEDULE OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR 2024

The schedule was noted for information.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE