



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS

7PM

14 AUGUST 2017

## MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors: Jason Mack (Chair), Tony Marvin, Stewart Blackmore, Leigh Geddes, Jim Toogood, Ed Gouge, Delian Fry, Billy Hill, Dave Logan.

## NO. SUBJECT

### PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present

### 79/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Brian Lucas and Stephen Cockett.

### 80/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest at this time.

### 81/17 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 10 July 2017, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meetings of 12 July and 31 July 2017 were noted.

### 82/17 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance report for this meeting (56/17) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 July 2017 and a list of all payments made during July 2017.
- b) Also included was a listing of budget variances during the first four months of the financial year.

**It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Ed Gouge and unanimously resolved that:**  
the Finance Report be accepted.

### 83/17 VENTNOR CENTRAL

As there were no substantive developments to report at this stage this item was postponed until the Town Council meeting of 11 September.

### 84/17 ST BONIFACE FIELDS DEVELOPMENT

- a) Report 58/17 for this meeting set out an outline proposal for the Town Council to develop the two fields opposite St Boniface School following the Island Free School's move to their new building in Upper Ventnor at the end of this month.
- b) Councillor James Toogood stressed the importance of getting the detailed building regulations and calculations that accompanied the original planning application.
- c) Councillor Stewart Blackmore asked if it was known how many allotments would be possible on the site and the Clerk responded that this would be determined in the process of detailed planning.

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**It was proposed by Councillor Stewart Blackmore, seconded by Councillor James Toogood and unanimously resolved that the Town Council :**

- i) requests the Isle of Wight Council for the transfer of the site either by freehold transfer or long lease;
  - ii) completes negotiations with the Island Free School for the purchase of the three Portakabins within a range to be agreed at item 17 of the Agenda for this meeting;
  - iii) authorises the Town Clerk to arrange for the preparation and submission of an appropriate planning application reflecting the usages and time scale identified in this outline proposal; and
  - iv) agrees the use of funds from the Salisbury Gardens' account for the purchase of the Portakabins and the costs of the planning application and initial set up of the site.
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#### **85/17 CASCADE GARDENS' LIGHTING**

- a) Report 59/17 set out the background to the currently failed lighting of the Cascade Gardens, the exploratory work on the wiring carried out by Berry Electrical and the quotation for the required repair work.
- b) Councillor James Toogood reminded members that there would be an additional cost for opening the two currently inaccessible boxes and dealing with any further repairs that reveals.
- c) Councillor Stewart Blackmore said the feature is iconic and needs to be restored.

**It was proposed by Councillor Leigh Geddes, seconded by Councillor James Toogood and unanimously resolved that:**

the quotation from Berry Electrical to restore the lighting feature be accepted.

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#### **86/17 ESPLANADE BENCHES REPLACEMENT**

It has been confirmed that the Isle of Wight Council's legacy fund available to contribute 50% of the cost of repair or, where necessary, the replacement of Benches can be applied to those on the Eastern Esplanade near the Paddling Pool.

**It was proposed by Councillor Tony Martin, seconded by Councillor James Toogood and unanimously resolved that the Town Council:**

agrees the purchase of five replacement picnic-style benches at a 50% cost to the Town Council of £582.50.

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#### **87/17 CRAB & LOBSTER SIGN REQUEST**

The request from the Landlords of the Crab & Lobster in Grove Road for permission to erect a directional sign was included with Report 61/17.

**It was proposed, seconded and unanimously resolved that:**

the request be refused

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#### **88/17 PARKING IN LOWTHERVILLE**

- a) Councillor Billy Hill introduced this item as he had been approached by a Lowtherville resident about parking in Downland Crescent in particular and the area in general and was very concerned about the likely traffic increase when the new Free School opens.
  - b) He suggested an approach to Island Road for the installation of School Safety signs and other traffic control measures.
  - c) Councillor Stewart Blackmore said he shared the concerns which he knew to be the biggest single issue for residents.
  - d) The Mayor said that in spite of these concerns being raised for several years no actions on parking were being proposed by Island Roads but the Free School Governors had
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committed to monitoring the impact of the additional traffic.

**It was proposed, seconded and unanimously resolved that:**

the Town Council waits for the results of the monitoring and discusses the matter further when they are available.

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**89/17 HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY**

The Town Council's Economic Development Officer Nick Cox, in his capacity of Health and Safety Officer, had carried out the required review of the Health and Safety Policy and the revised document had been previously circulated to Members with the papers for this meeting.

**It was proposed by Councillor Tony Marvin, seconded by Councillor Leigh Geddes and unanimously resolved that:**

the reviewed and revised Health and Safety Policy be adopted.

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**90/17 ISLAND ROADS ASSET MANAGEMENT MEETING**

- a) The Deputy Mayor introduced this item, providing feedback from his attendance at the meeting.
  - b) He said that the format of the meeting is a presentation followed by questions with the opportunity afterwards to meet with individual senior officers. The presentation had been circulated to Member in advance of this meeting.
  - c) He reported that the view that all roads will be repaired within the timescale of the contract is a misunderstanding and that the Contract Management Team meets four times a year to determine which concerns will be dealt with and with what priority.
  - d) He said he had raised the issue of hedges overhanging pavements issue and was assured it would have due consideration as well as the bench installed on the slope of Gills Cliff Road and the need for bus shelters to be cleared of overhanging vegetation..
  - e) Island Roads Staff are available for a volunteering day and proposals for their use are welcome.
- a) Councillor Ed Gouge said that present situation is unacceptable: the Contract is not publicly available, the Budget is not known and nor are the criteria for assessing jobs.
  - b) He added that the consequence of the current Client/Contractor arrangement was an absence of a traditional Highways Service function.
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**91/17 ISLE OF WIGHT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (IWALC)**

- a) The Mayor said the Constitution had been amended at the Annual General Meeting without the Town Council's amendments being adopted but that the Town Council would be invited to the October seminar meeting on IWALC's future.
  - b) He said that a new Chair, Peter Whiteman, had been appointed following Gill Kennett's seven years' service and that the next meeting would be on 21 September.
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**92/17 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT**

- a) The Town Clerks' Report – 63/17 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions at this time.
  - b) It included information on the grant from Arts Council England, the Welcome to Ventnor sign, Esplanade valve repair, the Paddling Pool sponsorship, the Wheelers' Bay Butterfly project, latest meetings of the Working Groups, the Mayor's attendance at the National Committee meeting of the National Association of Local Councils, the opening of the new premises for Ventnor Men in Sheds and attendance at the Isle of Wight Council's Regeneration Conference.
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**PUBLIC FORUM**

There were no members of the public present at this time.

Councillor Tony Marvin read the Report from the local Police team that had been provided today for this meeting.

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**93/17 EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC**

In view of the confidential nature of the following items:

**it was resolved under the Public Bodies Admissions to Meetings (1960) Act:** to exclude the Public and Press whilst the next items are under discussion as they are of a confidential nature.

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**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.40PM**

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SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE

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