



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS

7PM

11 SEPTEMBER 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

NO. SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

94/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Brian Lucas.

95/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest at this time.

96/17 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 14 August 2017, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meetings of 23 August 2017 were noted.

97/17 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance report for this meeting (65/17) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 August 2017 and a list of all payments made during August 2017.
- b) Also included was a listing of budget variances during the first five months of the financial year.

It was proposed by Councillor Dave Logan, seconded by Councillor Tony Marvin and unanimously resolved that:
the Finance Report be accepted.

98/17 ST BONIFACE FIELDS DEVELOPMENT

- a) Report 67/17 for this meeting recorded developments to date and identified the next steps currently being planned.
- b) Councillor Stephen Cockett said he was interested in the inclusion of a Community Garden in the overall site. Councillor Stewart Blackmore said that although he was not opposed to that proposal he felt that Allotments were a priority.
- c) Councillor Stewart Blackmore asked that thanks to the staff team for the development of this exciting project be recorded.

It was proposed by Councillor Leigh Geddes, seconded by Councillor James Toogood and unanimously agreed to:

- i) approve the proposed potential uses and usages of the site outlined in section (4) of this Report;
- ii) agree to commit an additional £5,000 from the Salisbury Gardens' account for the initial

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- development costs identified in section (6) of this Report to be repaid over the lifetime of the project;
- iii) delegate oversight responsibility for the management of the site to the Town Clerk with the Town Council's Assets & Services Working Group advised by its Community Development and Economic Development Officers; and
 - iv) authorise the preparation and submission of a planning application for the site by January 2018.
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100/17 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.

101/17 RETAILERS' MEETING WITH POLICE

- a) The Mayor introduced this item, noting that Councillors Stewart Blackmore and Ed Gouge also attended along with him. Attendance by traders was in the range of 25-30. He said that the issue is now a District Priority for the Police and the problem appears to be the lack of evidence to secure a conviction.
 - b) He added that one of the positive outcomes from the meeting was a proposal to form a Shop Watch Group that has since been followed up in discussions at the regular meeting with Ventnor Business Association Officers.
 - c) Councillor Stewart Blackmore said it was one of the most negative meetings he had attended due to the fact that Sergeant Georgina Leavold had said that at any one time there were only 7 Police Officers and two Sergeants on duty to cover the whole Island.
 - d) The Mayor said that he had the opportunity to speak with Superintendent Jackson and been assured that the issue was a serious priority for the Force.
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102/17 MEN IN SHEDS OUTLINE PROPOSAL

Report 68/17 summarised the Age Friendly Island Project led by Age UK IW with reference to its Men in Sheds strand and included an outline proposal for assisting with its successful delivery.

It was proposed by Councillor Tony Marvin seconded by Councillor Dave Logan and unanimously resolved to:

- i) authorise its Clerk and Community Development Officer to work with the officers of Ventnor Men in Sheds in developing it; and
 - ii) authorise its Clerk to discuss it directly with Age UK IW's Chief Officer.
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103/17 NON-RESIDENTIAL CARE CHARGING CONSULTATION

- a) Report 70/17 provided a basis for Members to determine the Town Council's response to the current Isle of Wight Council consultation on possible changes to its Non-residential Care Charging Policy.
- b) Councillor Stewart Blackmore said that it is basic humanity to care for the most vulnerable of the Island residents, although he had sympathy with the Isle of Wight Council's budget challenges as the real responsibility for the issue was the Government's

It was proposed by Councillor Stewart Blackmore, seconded by Councillor Billy Hill and unanimously resolved to:

ask the Clerk to draft a response to the consultation and submit it to both Dr Carol Tozer, the Isle of Wight Council's Director of Adult Services and Clare Mosdell, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health.

104/17 LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT CONSULTATION

- a) Report 71/17 asked Members to determine the Town Council's response to the current
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consultation on proposals for further changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme.

- b) Councillor Billy Hill said that there were other savings that could be made before taking money from the most vulnerable residents.

It was proposed by Councillor Stewart Blackmore, seconded by Councillor Billy Hill and unanimously resolved that:

- i) none of the options set out in the consultation be supported; and
ii) the Isle of Wight Council be informed that, notwithstanding its predicted Budget deficit for 2018/19, savings that affect only residents on low incomes are unacceptable.
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105/17 ISLAND PLAN CORE STRATEGY STAKEHOLDER SURVEY

- a) Town and Parish Councils, along with other stakeholders, had received an invitation from the Isle of Wight Council to respond to an initial survey on the review of the Island Plan Core Strategy as set out in set out in Report 72/17 for this meeting.
- b) Councillor Ed Gouge said there were a number of elements of the plan that needed further consideration including Town Centres and Esplanades and clarifying the meaning of the Smaller Regeneration Areas in relation to priority. He also thought it would be useful to include Ventnor's identification of specific regeneration sites.
- c) Councillor Tony Marvin recommended that the Niton Road be included for consideration.
- d) Councillor Stewart Blackmore drew attention to the declining significance of Hotels on the Island in General and Ventnor in particular the and the importance of stressing the needs of the parts of the Town rated in or about the most deprived 20% nationally.

It was proposed by Councillor Stewart Blackmore, seconded by Councillor Billy Hill and unanimously resolved that:

a response to the survey be completed by a Working Group of Councillors Ed Gouge, James Toogood and Tony Marvin with the Clerk and Economic Development Officer.

106/17 ISLE OF WIGHT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (IWALC)

The Mayor said that there was nothing to report at this stage following the summer break.

108/17 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

- a) The Town Clerks' Report – 73/17 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions at this time.
- b) It included information on the meetings of the Assets and Services Group and the South Wight Parishes Health & Wellbeing Forum and the meeting with the Officers of Ventnor Business Association.
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PUBLIC FORUM

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

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.05PM

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE
