



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS

7PM

9 OCTOBER 2017

## MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors: Jason Mack (Chair), Tony Marvin, Leigh Geddes, Jim Toogood, Brian Lucas, Billy Hill, Dave Logan, Stephen Cockett.

## NO. SUBJECT

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### PUBLIC FORUM

There were three members of the public present.

- a) PCSO Chris Urry provided statistics for the latest quarter showing a pleasing decline in most areas though concern remained about burglary and shop lifting on which he said he and his colleagues are working closely. Three people have been charged with offences during what has been a busy time for the team.
  - b) Gillian Jenner raised the issue of safety in Tulse Hill having had a fall. After contact with the Isle of Wight Council she had contact with Island Roads' Steward Paul Higman and was pleased to be told that the road would be relaid using non-slip surface for the bottom area, although not for some time.
  - c) She went on to draw attention to the problem of accessing Marlborough Road toilets for people with disabilities given the absence of a dropped kerb and requested that the Town Council formally ask Island Roads to provide one as it is the only disabled public toilet available.
  - d) The Mayor said that the Town Council would raise both issues with Island Roads.
  - e) Chris Bonney raised the shift to non-diesel cars and the consequent need for publicly available electric charging points. The Mayor said that he agreed about the need for those facilities and would be working with the Isle of Wight Council to ensure provision.
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### 109/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Delian Fry, Ed Gouge and Stewart Blackmore.

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### 110/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest at this time.

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### 111/17 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 11 September 2017, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
  - b) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meeting of 13 September 2017 were noted.
  - c) The Minutes of the Library Steering Group meeting of 12 September were noted and Councillor Leigh Geddes welcomed the recorded success of the Friends of Ventnor Library's In Touch project.
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### 97/17 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance report for this meeting (74/17) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 30 September 2017 and a list of all payments made during September 2017.
  - b) Also included was a listing of budget variances during the first five months of the financial
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year.

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

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#### **112/17 ANNUAL RETURN**

- a) Report 75/17 for this meeting included a copy of the Town Council's Annual Return for the financial year 2016/17 as signed off without qualification by its External Auditors BDO LLP.
- b) Members welcomed the outcome and noted the fact that the statutory requirement for display had been complied with

**It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Tony Marvin and unanimously resolved that:**  
the Annual Return for 2016/17 be accepted and its contents noted.

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#### **113/17 HALF YEAR RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS**

Although the printed document was not available at this time, the Report and the Receipts and Payments half-year accounts had been previously circulated to Members directly by email.

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#### **114/17 BONIFACE FIELDS DEVELOPMENT**

- a) An update on developments with the Fields as part of the Town Council's Regeneration Planning was provided by Report 77/17 as the basis for discussion by Members.
  - b) No decision was required at this time as the details for the scheme are being progressed by the Town Council's Assets & Services Working Group.
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#### **115/17 VENTNOR CENTRAL**

- a) The Mayor provided feedback on the meeting he and the Clerk had with the Isle of Wight Council's Head of Economic Affairs, Ashley Curzon, on Wednesday 4 October about the current situation in the ongoing discussions between the Council and Sovereign Housing.
- b) Councillor Brian Lucas suggested that funds related to recent planning proposals might be a source of finance for the project

**It was proposed by Councillor Tony Marvin, seconded by Councillor James Toogood and unanimously resolved to:**  
note the contents of Report 78/17 and the Mayor's feedback and confirm its own commitment to the delivery of the project as originally planned.

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#### **116/17 FOCUS ON DEPRIVATION**

- a) The basis for a renewed focus on deprivation both in the Town and the Island was summarised in Report 79/17.
- b) Councillor Brian Lucas said that it was clear from his contact with the town's Foodbank how critical education and employment opportunities were to residents.
- c) The Mayor said that he was aware that two senior Members of the Isle of Wight Council's Cabinet had requested a meeting with Public Health to discuss deprivation among the most deprived 20% Local Super Output Areas on the Island.
- d) Councillor Stephen Cockett commented that it would be useful to have some further discussion before the proposed February conference.
- e) Councillor Leigh Geddes said she was appalled at the impacts of the welfare benefit changes that involved people losing £50 a week by 2020.

**It was proposed by Councillor Leigh Geddes, seconded by Councillor Brian Lucas and unanimously resolved to:**

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agree the Programme Outline identified in section (6) of Report 79/17.

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#### **117/17 MY LIFE A FULL LIFE ENGAGEMENT**

After consideration of the summary of the latest outcomes from the Locality Town and Parish Councils' Health and Wellbeing Forums as set out in Report 80/17:

**it was proposed by Councillor Tony Marvin, seconded by Councillor Billy Hill and unanimously resolved to:**

advise the My Life a Full Life programme of the Town Council's commitment to the further development of the Forums, with continuing financial support, for a further 12 months.

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#### **118/17 ISLE OF WIGHT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (IWALC)**

The Mayor reported on his attendance at the latest meeting of IWALC's Executive on 21 September where the main item involved discussions of the need for a continuation of the Isle of Wight Council's Youth Offer into 2018/19.

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#### **119/17 ISLE OF WIGHT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS**

- a) Report 81/17 noted that IWALC had decided to cancel its planned 31 October Workshop to consider the organisation's future – as agreed by resolution of its Annual General Meeting – because only one Clerk and two Councillors had expressed an interest in attending.
  - b) In the remainder of the Report the Clerk summarised the reasons why he had come to the conclusion that such a discussion was essential and asked for Members' permission to circulate to both IWALC members and the Island's Clerks a related discussion paper, qualified on the basis that the views expressed in it were his own and not necessarily those of Ventnor Town Council.
  - c) Members agreed to the Clerk's proposal and Councillor Brian Lucas raised the question of whether or not, in its current structure, the £995 Membership fee represented value for money.
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#### **120/17 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT**

- a) The Town Clerks' Report – 82/17 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions at this time.
  - b) It included information on the Town Council's response to the three recent Consultations from the Isle of Wight Council, the latest Locality Leads Meeting, the latest meeting with Upper Ventnor Community Association's Committee, the meetings held by the Community Development and Assets & Services Working Groups and repairs to the Salisbury Gardens' roof.
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#### **PUBLIC FORUM**

- a) A member of the public asked about the arrangements being considered for the allocation of the additional allotments proposed for Boniface Fields and the Assistant Clerk described the current waiting list.
  - b) Councillor Tony Marvin drew the meeting's attention to the fact that the Remembrance Day Sunday Service at St Catherine's Church would be held this year on Sunday 12 November.
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**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.35PM**

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SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE

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