



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS 7PM

15 JANUARY 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

NO. SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

1/18 COUNCILLOR ED GOUGE

The Meeting held a One Minute Silence in memory of, and in gratitude for, the life of Councillor Ed Gouge who died on Tuesday 2 January 2018.

2/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Tony Marvin and Delian Fry.

3/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest at this time.

4/18 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 11 December 2017, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meetings of 18 December 2017 and 9 January 2018 were noted.

5/18 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance report for this meeting (1/18) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 December 2017 and a list of all payments made during December 2017.
- b) Also included was a listing of budget variances during the first nine months of the financial year.
- c) The Report included an update on the funds still held by the Town Council on behalf of the group who had made contributions towards a potential venue for the town's Boxing Club.

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

6/18 FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT

- a) The basis for the annual review of the Financial Risk Assessment by the Town Council was set out in Report 2/18 for this meeting.
- b) The current arrangements for the management of financial risks had been previously circulated to Members in advance of the meeting for comment and amendment.

It was proposed by Councillor Leigh Geddes, seconded by Councillor Dave Logan and unanimously resolved that:
the Town Council approves and adopts the circulated list of arrangements for the management

of financial risk in the financial year 2018/19.

7/18 STRATEGIC PLAN SUMMARY

- a) In response to the recognition of the need for a summary of the Town Council's Strategic Plan to be circulated freely and used in funding applications, the Town Council's Economic Development Officer had prepared a draft for one that was previously circulated to Members with Report 3/18 for this meeting.
- b) Councillor Leigh Geddes welcomed the Summary and its design, suggesting minor adjustments to one section of the text.
- c) Councillor Dave Logan asked if an even shorter document could be made available focusing directly on the contributions of the Town Council's work to Ventnor residents.

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Leigh Geddes and unanimously resolved that:

the summary of the Town Council's Local Strategic Plan be adopted after a further week of opportunity for Members to propose minor amendments to the Clerk.

8/18 BONIFACE FIELDS

- a) Report 4/18 summarised the development to date with the Town Council's Regeneration Project at Boniface Fields.
 - b) Councillor Brian Lucas expressed his concerns about cost of the project given the number of current unknowns. The Clerk confirmed that no expenditure would be committed beyond the already approved £5,000 until the Assets & Services Working Group had completed its work on costs and reported to the Town Council accordingly.
 - c) The Mayor informed Members that the Isle of Wight Council's Deputy Leader was aware of the proposals for the development.
 - d) Councillor Stephen Cockett asked if Allotments would be in the lower field only and the Clerk responded that the Architect's drawing received this week showed the possibility of a small number in the upper field as well.
 - e) In response to Councillor Stephen Cockett's question about the timescale for their development the Mayor identified April as the hoped for target.
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9/18 VENTNOR HAVEN ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2016/17

- a) The Annual Report & Accounts for Ventnor Haven in the financial year 2016/17 had been included on the Agenda of the Isle of Wight Council's Cabinet meeting of 11 January and circulated with the papers for this meeting with Report 5/18.
 - b) Councillor Brian Lucas emphasised the importance of the Town Council remaining in touch with developments in view of the Isle of Wight Council's statement that the current costs of the seaweed removal were unsustainable.
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10/18 THE LOCAL CARE PLAN

- a) Report 6/18 summarised the background to the now approved Local Care Plan and the risks attached to its delivery; a copy of the Plan was attached to the Report for Members' information
 - b) Councillor James Toogood said that in view of the predicted budget shortfall of £52k for the Island's Health and Care services by 2020 it was clear that planning for this situation should have started much earlier.
 - c) The Mayor told Members that the Acute Services Review element of the Plan was being developed by the clinical teams and would be the subject of public consultation later this year and added that the Solent Alliance of Southampton, Portsmouth and the Island was working effectively.
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- d) The meeting was pleased to hear that the Chief Executive of the Island's NHS Trust Maggie Oldham had agreed to attend the next meeting of the South Wight Parishes Health & Wellbeing Forum.
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12/18 THE ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL'S 2018/19 BUDGET CONSULTATION

- a) It was noted that the Isle of Wight Council has again based its consultation on its 2018/19 Budget on an on-line Survey without providing any information about either its actual proposals or its proposed cuts to services required to meet its commitment to secure in-year savings of £7.5m.
- b) Attached to Report 7/18 for this meeting was a copy of a letter from the Isle of Wight Councils Chief Executive John Metcalf listing eight areas in which *town and parish councils might wish to consider funding on behalf of their community*.
- c) Discussion focused on the implications of the listing of Youth services (*all current agreements end in March 2018*) and Parks maintenance (*provision of additional standards above based minimum with effect from January 2019*).
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13/18 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

- a) The Town Clerks' Report – 8/18 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions at this time.
- b) It included information on the charity Gifts to Nature, the Town Council's move from the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils to Hampshire Association of Local Councils, the Consultation evening on 29 January and the latest meetings of the Community Development and Assets & Services Working Groups.
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PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public in attendance at this time.

The Meeting closed at 8.30pm

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

| DATE
