



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS 7PM

11 FEBRUARY 2019

## MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors: Stewart Blackmore (Chair), Tony Marvin, Leigh Geddes, Jason Mack, Brian Lucas, Dave Logan, Stephen Cockett, Ian Bond, Delian Fry, Colm Watling

## No. SUBJECT

The Mayor welcomed new Councillor for Lowtherville, Colm Watling, to his first Town Council meeting.

The Mayor thanked PCSO Chris Urry for his written Report that had been tabled for the meeting.

### PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present at this time. The County Councillor for Ventnor West Gary Peace was present.

## 11/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence as all Members were present.

## 12/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest at this time.

## 13/19 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 14 January 2019, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meetings of 29 January 19 were noted.

## 14/19 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance report for this meeting (9/19) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 January 2019 and a list of all payments made during January 2019.
- b) Also included was a listing of budget variances during the first ten months of the financial year.

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

## 15/19 FAMILY VOICE

- a) Report 10/19 for this meeting provided Members with details of the Family Voice project that the Community Development Working Group has recommended the Town Council to implement and fund.
- b) Councillor Jason Mack said he had already made informal contact with St Francis Primary School and would progress those discussions directly.
- c) Councillor Ian Bond said that he was pleased to see the Report but felt that the case had not been made in sufficient detail.

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- d) The Mayor said that he was confident that the detail would emerge as the project progressed.
  - e) Councillor Mack referred to the evidence of significant deprivation from the Food Bank use and the issues that surfaced with Universal Credit at the Thursday morning Network sessions.
  - f) The Mayor said that he felt it is really important to hear from residents who are often outside the usual engagement structures.
  - g) Councillor Dave Logan said that it would be important to follow through on the findings if the project proceeds.
  - h) Councillor Stephen Cockett said that it was important to take the first step.
  - i) Councillor Brian Lucas said that it was likely that the project would reveal the need for major expenditure and investment.

**It was proposed by Councillor Jason Mack, seconded by Councillor Leigh Geddes and resolved that:**

the sum of £3,000 be included in the 2019/20 Budget for the Family Voice project.

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#### **16/19 BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2019/20**

The Draft Budget for 2019/20 and the calculations for the proposed Precept for 2019/20 had been previously circulated to Members along with Report 11/19.

**It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Tony Marvin and unanimously resolved that the Town Council:**

- i) adopts the Draft Budget as presented with Report 11/19 for this meeting;
  - ii) confirms its Budget for 2019/20 to be £474,661;
  - iii) sets the Precept-related income to fund it at £340,294, together with the Local Council Tax Scheme grant of £2,291 from the Isle of Wight Council;
  - iv) notes that the Band D charge for 2019/20 will be £132.73; and
  - v) asks the Town Clerk to inform the Isle of Wight Council accordingly.
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#### **17/19 BONIFACE FIELDS**

Report 12/19 provided an update on progress with the development of this facility and identified the proposed works to be completed within the current financial year.

**It was proposed by Councillor Tony Marvin, seconded by Councillor Brian Lucas and unanimously resolved to:**

approve expenditure on the Boniface Fields works identified in section (4) of this Report of £12,351.

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#### **18/19 COMMUNITY LED HOUSING PROJECTS**

- a) A progress report on ERMIC's work on the two feasibility studies was included in Report 13/19 together with the proposed next steps with them.
  - b) Councillor Jason Mack introduced this item commenting on the work-in-progress meeting and the encouragement it provided.
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#### **19/19 31 Bus**

- a) A proposal to pilot a Demand Responsive Transport element for the St Lawrence loop in 2019/20 that had been developed by Councillor Stephen Cockett in discussions with a working group on the future of the service was attached to Report 14/19.
  - b) The Mayor thanked Councillor Stephen Cockett for his work on the proposal and asked him to open the discussion of it.
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- c) Councillor Stephen Cockett said that he was confident that the additional pick-up time can be accommodated within the current timetable.
  - d) The Clerk confirmed that the service provider was content to provide the enhancement to the service at an additional charge of £5 a day.

**It was proposed by Councillor Stephen Cockett, seconded by Councillor Dave Logan and unanimously resolved to:**  
implement the proposed piloting of a Demand Responsive Transport element for the St Lawrence loop in 2019/20.

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**20/19 CASUAL VACANCY**

The arrangements for filling the current vacancy for a Councillor to represent Ventnor West Ward were set out in Report 15/19.

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**21/19 WAR MEMORIAL**

- a) Historic England's description of Ventnor's War Memorial as a basis for its potential inclusion in the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest was attached to Report 16/19.
  - b) After discussion it was agreed that the Town Council had no comment to make on the description but wished to make it clear that there was no record to indicate the Town Council owns the Memorial.
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**22/19 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT**

- a) The Town Clerks' Report – 17/19 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions at this time.
  - b) It included information on improvements on the Esplanade, the latest meeting with officers of Ventnor Business Association, the Clerks' attendance at the Annual Meeting of the Island Branch of the Society of Local Council Clerks, the meetings of the Working Groups and a meeting with the Chair of the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils.
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**PUBLIC FORUM**

There were no members of the public present.

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The Meeting closed at 8.15pm

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SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE

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