



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS

7PM

8 APRIL 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

No. SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

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

36/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Brian Lucas.

37/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

38/19 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 11 March 2019, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meeting of 19 March 2019 were noted.

39/19 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance report for this meeting (28/19) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 March 2019 and a list of all payments made during March 2019.
- b) Also included was a listing of budget variances during the financial year.

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

40/19 RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

- a) The Receipts & Payments Accounts for the 2018/19 financial year were attached to Report 29/19 for this meeting.
- b) The Clerk reminded Members of the requirement for the Town Council's accounts to be presented on an Income and Expenditure basis and that those should be available for adoption at the 20 May Meeting.

41/19 VENTNOR CENTRAL DEVELOPMENT

- a) Report 30/19 provided the update referred to in Minute 21/19 of the Town Council meeting of 11 March 2019 on progress with the application to the Island Community Led Housing Programme.
- b) Councillor Jason Mack introduced Report 30/19, commenting on the range of meetings he had attended with staff noting that John Brownscombe intended to open discussions with Homes England for additional funding streams.

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- c) The Clerk added that the Pre-Planning Application Advice request advice has been submitted.
 - d) The Mayor indicated his excitement about the project and noted the strong support for the project from John Brownscombe.
 - e) Councillor Jamie Macaulay asked about the two options outlined in the Report and whether the build-out option had been discounted. The Mayor responded at it had been considered but that the new build option was much preferred.
 - f) Councillor Colm Watling asked about funding and tendering processes for the works that would be used in due course.
 - g) Councillor Jason Mack thanked County Councillor Gary Peace for his support.
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42/19 UPPER VENTNOR LAND DEVELOPMENT

- a) Report 31/19 provided the update referred to in Minute 21/19 of the Town Council meeting of 11 March 2019 on progress with the application to the Island Community Led Housing Programme.
 - b) The Mayor explained that more time was needed with this Project due to the need to clarify the ground condition and the Housing/Light industrial mix and the more substantial funding requirement provided a greater challenge.
 - c) Councillor Jason Mack said that another ground survey is needed and the funding requirement may well need a developer.
 - d) He added that he had attended the recent Youth Regeneration Conference that favoured the development of a Higher Education Campus on the Island this site would be entirely suitable.
 - e) Councillor Colm Watling asked about potential partners for the Campus concept and Councillor Jason Mack responded that both Portsmouth and Southampton Universities had representatives at the Conference.
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43/19 SALISBURY GARDENS' GREEN ACCESSIBILITY

- a) The Executive Summary of the Report from Isle Access on the Green commissioned by the Town Council had been previously circulated to Members.
- b) The Mayor reminded Members of the problems of accessibility that emerged last year.
- c) The Clerk summarised the staff and Community Development Working Group view that reasons for the postponement of Ventnor Day this year were strong.

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

plans for future events on the Green – including Ventnor Day 2019 – be discontinued until the implications of the Isle Access Report have been fully considered and potential remediation of the identified risks has been explored and, where possible, implemented.

44/19 USE OF HERBICIDES

- a) Councillor Stephen Cockett introduced this item and had arranged for information on it to be circulated with the Papers for this meeting as an attachment to Report 33/19.
 - b) He commented that some towns have already introduced similar measures and that his proposed resolution was just a starting point with the end of 2019 as target date.
 - c) Councillor Jason Mack asked about alternatives to herbicides and Councillor Stephen Cockett replied that he planned to do much more research on the matter.
 - d) Councillor Leigh Geddes cautioned that detailed consideration was needed as withdrawing treatment in the context of the currently reduced grounds maintenance staffing may risk the loss of the amenity places.
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- e) Councillor Tony Marvin suggested it might be better to focus on glyphosate specifically rather than the more generic herbicides.

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Tony Marvin and unanimously resolved to:

revisit the issue at the Town Council's May meeting.

45/19 VENTNOR CENTRAL EMERGENCY LIGHTING

The Town Council has been informed by Wight Fire that the building's Emergency Lighting is in need of urgent repair.

It was proposed by Councillor Leigh Geddes, seconded by Councillor Jason Mack and unanimously resolved to:

accept the £870 quotation from Berry Electrical for the necessary repairs.

46/19 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

- a) The Town Clerks' Report – 36/19 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions at this time.
- b) It included information on the Town Centre, Car Parks, Ventnor Business Association, Visiting Students and meetings of the Working Groups.
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PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

The Meeting closed at 8.05pm

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE

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