



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

VIRTUAL MEETING

7PM

15 JUNE 2020

## MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors: Stewart Blackmore (Chair), Stephen Cockett, Brian Lucas, Colm Watling, Ian Bond, Dave Logan, Steve Milford, Delian Fry, James Toogood

## NO. SUBJECT

### PUBLIC FORUM

The arrangements for the meeting provided for public access for the Public Forum but no members of the public took up that opportunity.

### HARRY REES

The Mayor opened the meeting by recording his appreciation of the life and work of Harry Rees who died on 13 May, drawing attention to his remarkable support for the Island through a wide range of responsibilities and roles including his years as a Ventnor Town Councillor.

### 55/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Jason Mac and Jamie Macaulay..

### 56/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest at this time.

### 57/20 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 18 May 2020, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.

The Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 29 May were noted.

### 58/20 FINANCE REPORT

a) The Finance Report for this meeting (42/20) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 May 2020 and a list of all payments made during May 2020.

b) Also included was a listing of budget variances during the first two months of the 2020/21 financial year.

**It was proposed by Councillor James Toogood, seconded by Councillor Stephen Cockett and unanimously resolved that:**  
the Finance Report be accepted.

### 59/20 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2019/20

The Income & Expenditure Accounts for the 2019/20 financial year were attached to Report 43/20/ for this meeting.

**It was proposed by Councillor Delian Fry, seconded by Councillor Stephen Cockett and unanimously resolved that:**  
the Income and Expenditure Account and related Balance Sheet attached to Report 43/20 for this meeting be approved and adopted as its Annual Accounts for the financial year 2019/20.

### 60/20 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2019/20: GOVERNANCE

a) The Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2019/20 the Town Council is required

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- to submit to its External Auditor by 31 July 2020, had been previously circulated to Members.
- b) Members considered the Governance Statements in the Return's Section 1.

**It was unanimously resolved that:**

the Governance Statements in Section 1 of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return for the financial year 2019/20 be endorsed as presented and the Deputy Mayor be authorised to sign Section 1 accordingly.

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**61/20 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2019/20: ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS**

Members considered the Accounts Statements for the financial year 2019/20 in Section 2 of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2019/20 as completed in the circulated copy.

**It was proposed by Councillor James Toogood, seconded by Councillor Stephen Cockett and unanimously resolved that the Town Council:**

- i) approves the Accounting Statements set out in Section 2 of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return;
  - ii) authorises its Deputy Mayor to sign Section 2 accordingly; and
  - iii) asks its Town Clerk to submit the completed return together with the required additional papers in advance of the 31 July 2020 deadline.
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**62/20 SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE RESIDENTS**

- a) Report 46/20 for this meeting summarised the work of the volunteer and staff team to date in providing support for local vulnerable residents.
  - b) The Assistant Clerk updated Members on the continuing work of the staff team and volunteers in carrying out shopping and collection of medication for residents unable to leave home, commenting that the level of demand has recently been diminishing and adding that the Post Office was now open for four days a week with volunteers continuing to manage the queue.
  - c) The Mayor said that there might be a value in continuing this work beyond the lockdown and the Assistant Clerk responded that Tony McCarthy had developed and circulated a questionnaire to the volunteers that included that possibility.
  - d) Councillor Stephen Cockett said that the volunteers were providing a vital service and Councillor Delian Fry added that it is wonderful that Ventnor can respond to need in this way.
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**63/20 CENTRAL CAR PARK**

- a) An update on progress with the proposed redesign of the Central Car Park to increase the number of bays sufficiently to provide for the four spaces required for the Public Toilet and the possible replacement of the current free parking in the High Street was the subject of Report 47/20.
- b) The quotation for the professional assessment of the proposal from Island Roads was attached to the Report in a total of £2,455.
- c) Two concerns were expressed by Members during their discussion of how to progress this project.
  - o There was almost unanimous agreement that it would not be appropriate for the Town Council to fund the whole of the cost of this initial stage of the work as if it did confirm a basis for increasing the number of parking bays the prime beneficiary would be the Isle of Wight Council.
  - o There was some feeling that expenditure at this stage would not be sensible unless there was a commitment from the Isle of Wight Council to implement any emerging proposals for a significant increase in the number of parking bays.

**It was proposed by Councillor Stephen Cockett, seconded by Councillor James Toogood and resolved by majority vote that:**

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the Town Council will contribute 50% of the cost of the professional assessment by Island Roads if the Isle of Wight Council contributes the remainder.

Councillor Brian Lucas requested that his vote against the motion be recorded.

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64/20 **BONIFACE FIELDS**

- a) Report 48/20 provided an update on the latest position in respect of the Lease for and the electricity supply to the Fields.
- b) Also attached was a draft Heads of Terms for the Lease to the Town Council provided by the Isle of Wight Council.

**It was unanimously resolved that:**

- i) the draft Heads of Terms be accepted as the basis for moving to an agreed Lease for the area; and
  - ii) the Clerk be asked to prompt a response from the Chair of the Trustees of St Catherine's School and College to the Town Council's request for a meeting to discuss the future arrangements for the provision of the electricity supply to the Fields.
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65/20 **GIFT TO NATURE**

The Annual Report of Gift to Nature had been circulated in advance of the meeting and was welcomed by Members.

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66/20 **TOWN CLERKS' REPORT**

- a) The Town Clerks' Report – 50/20 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions at this time.
  - b) It included information on Ventnor Food Bank, Buono View Steps, Toilets Re-opening, Hampshire Association of Local Councils, Working Groups' meetings and Social Distancing in the town centre.
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The meeting closed at 8.30pm

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE

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