



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

VIRTUAL MEETING

7PM

14 SEPTEMBER 2020

## MEMBERS PRESENT

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

## SUBJECT

### PUBLIC FORUM

The arrangements for the meeting providing for public access for the Public Forum were on the web site.

### 89/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

### 90/20 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 10 August 2020, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.

The Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 1 September were noted.

### 91/20 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance Report for this meeting (68/20) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 August 2020 and a list of all payments made during August 2020.
- b) Also included was a listing of budget variances during the first five 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.

### 92/20 NEW PUBLIC TOILET

- a) Report 69/20 for this meeting provided an update on progress with the project to install a new public toilet facility in the Central Car Park.
- b) Councillor James Toogood introduced this item, reporting that on the advice of the Town Council's Architect for the project it had been agreed to commission a Quantity Surveyor to complete the specifications for the work and to engage Andrew Hitt to check and sign off the expenditure claims.
- c) Councillor Brian Lucas said he was supportive of these developments as a complete and accurate specification was an essential element of the tender process.
- d) Councillor Steve Milford also expressed agreement with the plan and added that concern remained about the Isle of Wight Council's proposed charge for the parking bays needed for the toilet.
- e) In response to Councillor Brian Lucas's question about the inclusion of Covid-19 safety features Councillor James Toogood said that increased hand-washing time would be arranged from the Wallgate machines.

### 93/20 BELGRAVE ROAD

- a) In response to concerns from residents about the lack of information about plans for the future of Belgrave Road following the landslip the Town Council requested an update from

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- Island Roads and that was attached to report 70/20 for this meeting.
- b) Councillor Stephen Cockett introduced this item referencing his previously circulated proposal that the Isle of Wight Council be asked to consider a non-vehicular reinstatement of the road as that would be both cheaper and more environmentally friendly.
  - c) The Mayor said he was very supportive of this proposal and Councillor Delian Fry added that it would be a suitable location for the much needed cycle racks.
  - d) Councillor Steve Milford reminded Members that vehicular access would still be needed for Emergency Services among others.
  - e) The importance of the stability of the solution to householders, particularly those close to the landslip area, was highlighted by Councillor Ian Bond and Councillor Dave Logan added that consultation with the residents should be a priority.
  - f) Councillor Brian Lucas said that the road's striking scenic context provided an opportunity to create a very special location within the town.

**It was proposed by Councillor Stephen Cockett, seconded by the Mayor and unanimously resolved that**

the Clerk be ask to request the Isle of Wight Council's Highways Department to consider a non-vehicular and environmentally sensitive reinstatement of the road and that the Town Council be formally consulted in the development phase.

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**94/20 STAFF APPOINTMENTS**

Three recent staff appointments were identified in Report 71/20 consisting of appointments to the currently vacant posts of Youth Projects Officer and Mental Health Support Worker and an additional Cleaner.

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**95/20 PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE CONSULTATION**

- a) A link to the government's White Paper - *Planning for the Future* – was included in Report 73/20.
  - b) Councillor James Toogood said that its proposals were completely unacceptable.
  - c) Councillor Brian Lucas highlighted the importance of the Town Council developing a response to it in view of its focus on growth areas for substantial development and the implications that carries for the Island.
  - d) Members agreed that the Town Council's Planning Committee would assess the proposals in more detail with a view to agreement on a formal response at the October meeting.
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**96/20 POLLING DISTRICTS 2021 CONSULTATION**

- a) The Town Council has been asked to respond to the Isle of Wight Council's plans for the 6 May Local elections in respect of the Polling Districts and Polling venues.
  - b) Members were concerned at the loss of the Polling facility at St Catherine's and the consequent increase in the distance for many residents to register their vote.
  - c) The Clerk said he would respond to the Isle of Wight Council's Electoral Services and Local Land Charges Manager accordingly.
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**97/2 STANDING ORDERS**

Report 74/20 for this meeting identified areas that need clarification in respect of amendment or additions to the current draft for the revised Standing Orders.

**It was proposed by Councillor Colm Watling, seconded by Councillor James Toogood and unanimously resolved to:**

- i) agree to include in the draft Standing Orders clauses to:
    - o develop and apply a Tender Evaluation Scheme
    - o include a reference to the *Public Services (Social Value) Act* and incorporate it in
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- provisions in the Tender Evaluation Scheme; and
  - add a requirement to secure three tenders for all contract of value between £5,000 and £25,000;
  - ii) agree that contracts in excess of £25,000 be advertised and, consequently, added to the Contract Finder database; and
  - iii) ask the Clerk, in discussion with the Mayor and Councillor Colm Watling, to draft appropriate clauses to reflect the above decisions.
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98/20 **TOWN CLERKS' REPORT**

- a) The Town Clerks' Report – 67/20 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions at this time.
  - b) It included information on re-opening the Office, the re-opening of the Marlborough Road Public Toilets, the latest of the meetings the Island MP holds for representatives of Town and Parish Councils, the 31 Bus and the meetings of the Working Groups.
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The meeting closed at 8.07pm.

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE

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