



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS

7PM

13 MARCH 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors: Jason Mack (Chair), Leigh Geddes, Tony Marvin, Delian Backhouse-Fry, Brian Lucas, Jim Toogood, Ken Knapman.

No. SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

- a) There were four members of the public present.
- b) Lesley Telford said how grateful the Heritage Centre were for the support of the Town Council in their recent successful Big Lottery application.
- c) A member of the public asked about the Tea & Coffee Shop's interest in renting part of the town central paved area.
- d) The Mayor said that he would be attending Ventnor Enhancement Fund's (VEF) AGM in the first week in April for a discussion of the development of that area.
- e) Councillor Brian Lucas said that as Treasurer of VEF he felt it was unlikely that any development would be possible for this season as fundraising would be necessary as well as agreement on design.
- f) Councillor Leigh Geddes drew attention to the fact that commercial use by a local café would prevent other people using the only public space in the town centre.
- g) The Mayor said that the matter would be on the Agenda for the next Public Buildings Working Group on 29 March.

24/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Harry Rees, Ed Gouge and Stewart Blackmore.

25/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest at this time.

26/17 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 13 February 2017, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meeting of 1 March 2017 were noted.

27/17 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance report for this meeting (16/17) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 28 February 2017 and a list of all payments made during February 2017.
- b) Also included was a listing of budget variances for the first eleven months of the financial year.

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

28/17 BANK SIGNATORIES

In anticipation of changes at the 4 May Local Elections Report 17/17 for this meeting recommended the addition of Councillor Leigh Geddes to those authorised to be signatories on the Town Council's HSBC Bank Accounts.

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Delian Backhouse-Fry and unanimously resolved that:

Councillor Leigh Geddes be added to the list of authorised signatories on the Town Council's HSBC Bank Accounts.

29/17 YOUTH OFFER FUNDING

- a) The success of the Town Council's full application for continued funding from the Isle of Wight Council's extension of its Youth Offer funding in securing £19,941 for 2017/18 was recorded in Report 18/17.
 - b) With the match funding of £5,000 from each of Southern Housing Association and the Town Council it was noted that the provision of opportunities for the town's young people provided by the Town Council and its partners would be able to continue throughout 2017/18 at very close to the current level.
 - c) Councillor Delian Backhouse-Fry said that the staff were to be congratulated on securing this additional funding.
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30/17 BROWN TAIL MOTHS TREATMENT

- a) The issues posed by the increasing infestation of the Brown Tail Moth caterpillars were identified in Report 19/17 and a quotation from Hillbands for removal of them was attached to it.
- b) Councillor James Toogood explained the problem is even greater than anticipated and could involve substantial cost.
- c) Councillor Leigh Geddes argued that spraying as a protection against a relatively small risk is undesirable given the impact on other species and added that her research into the practice of other Councils showed that public information was the usual response.
- d) Councillor Tony Marvin asked when the caterpillars were active and Councillor Leigh Geddes said that was April to June and October to November.

It was proposed by Councillor Leigh Geddes, seconded by Councillor Delian Backhouse-Fry BF and unanimously resolved that:

the Town Council provides information on signs and its website on the risks presented by the Caterpillars and informs the Isle of Wight Council of the issue.

31/17 VENTNOR CENTRAL

- a) Sovereign Housing Association's progression of the project and their current outline timetable for the months leading to the start of the building works were both welcomed.
- b) The draft Heads of Terms provided by the Isle of Wight Council for a continuation of the Town Council's leasing of the building until the completion of its sale was recommended by the Public Buildings Working Group for approval by the Town Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Leigh Geddes, seconded by Councillor Tony Marvin and unanimously resolved that:

the draft Heads of Terms be agreed.

32/17 COASTAL STUDIES

- a) The Isle of Wight Council's Senior Geomorphologist Jenny Jakeways has invited the Town
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Council to respond to the proposed Coastal Studies of Sandown Bay and Ventnor from Monks Bay to Steephill Cove.

- b) The Ventnor Study will be focused on the coastal defences needed to prevent erosion and minimise the risk of landslide reactivation.
- c) Councillor Brian Lucas asked that the possibility of action that would encourage sand on adjoining beaches be included.
- d) Councillor Tony Marin asked for information on the actual area to be included in the Study including inland.

It was unanimously resolved that the Town Council:

- i) request consideration is given to actions that might secure coverings of sand on adjoining beaches;
 - ii) request information on the actual area, including inland, to be included in the Study; and
 - iii) express an interest in the Study and ask to be kept informed of its progress.
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33/17 LOCAL ELECTIONS

Report 22/17 for this meeting summarised the main elements of the arrangements for the elections for both the Isle of Wight Council and Town and Parish Councils on 4 May as set out fully in the official Election Pack previously circulated to Members.

34/17 ISLE OF WIGHT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (IWALC)

- a) The Memo previously circulated to Members on the proposals for changing IWALC's Constitution was discussed after the Clerk had informed the meeting that several email exchanges had resulted in a commitment that the proposed changes would be progressed in compliance with the Constitution.
 - b) Councillor Ken Knapman said that he completely agreed with the concerns expressed in the Clerk's Memo.
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35/17 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

- a) The Town Clerks' report – 23/17 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions at this time.
 - b) It included information on the appointment to the Maintenance Manager Post, Medina Valley Visit, the Butterfly Project, the South Locality Advocates' Group, Principal Parks, the School Funding Formula and meetings of Working Groups.
 - c) The Mayor drew attention to the adverse impact of the changes to the School Funding Formula on St Francis Primary School.
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PUBLIC FORUM

Evelyn Knowles said that the Friends of Ventnor Library wished to convey their gratitude to the Town Council for its work for the provision of a new location for the Library.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.10PM

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE
