



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS 7PM

12 FEBRUARY 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors: Jason Mack (Chair), Tony Marvin, Leigh Geddes, James Toogood, Brian Lucas, Delian Fry, Stewart Blackmore, Dave Logan, Stephen Cockett.

NO. SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

- a) There were 24 members of the public present who all identified themselves as hospitality providers or traders in the town.
- b) After an introduction from Larry Allen summarising their concerns a lively discussion with the Mayor followed as individuals expressed a range of concerns seen as threats to their businesses including:
 - The unsuitability of the High Street for the development of a café culture given its narrowness and lack of sunlight.
 - The loss of 16 free car parking spaces representing a threat to business.
 - Limited provision of off street car parking with the Central Car Park often full.
 - Loss of car parking on the Esplanade would significantly limit visitor access.
 - The Esplanade was redesigned only 10 years ago and in the absence of any accidents since there is no need for further changes.
 - The price of Isle of Wight Council licences for use of pavement space.
 - Importance of access by large delivery vehicles.
 - Traffic lights belong in an urban environment and not in a rural Esplanade.
 - Making such a dramatic change would be a reckless gamble.
- c) The Mayor stressed that no decision had yet been made and none would be made until after the full consultation with residents, local traders and landlords planned for April 2018 when all the necessary information for a meaningful discussion is expected to be available.

14/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Billy Hill.

15/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor James Toogood declared an interest in the Pedestrianisation item at number 8 on the Agenda.

16/18 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- d) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 15 December 2018, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- e) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meeting of 31 January 2018 were noted.

17/18 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance report for this meeting (9/18) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 January 2018 and a list of all payments made during January 2018.
- b) Also included was a listing of budget variances during the first ten months of the financial year.

It was proposed by Councillor Stewart Blackmore, seconded by Councillor Tony Martin and unanimously resolved that:
the Finance Report be accepted.

18/18 2018/19 BUDGET & PRECEPT

- a) The Draft Budget for the Town's Council's work in 2018/19 was attached to Report 10/19 for this meeting with an anticipated total expenditure of £450,828 offset by income from activities and grants totalling £122,596 leaving the amount needed directly from the Precept at £323,354.
- b) The increase was the consequence of the Isle of Wight Council's decisions to end its Youth Offer grant funding and to change the service level for Ventnor Park from January 2019 and the Town Council's commitment to develop Boniface Fields as a community resource: all three costs had received strong support at the annual Consultation Meeting of 29 January.

It was proposed by Councillor Brian Lucas, seconded by Councillor Stewart Blackmore and unanimously resolved that the Town Council:

- i) adopts the Draft Budget as presented with this Report;
 - ii) confirms its Budget for 2018/19 to be £450,828;
 - iii) sets the Precept-related income to fund it at £323,354, together with the Local Council Tax Scheme grant of £4,879 from the Isle of Wight Council;
 - iv) notes that the Band D charge for 2018/19 will be £126.54; and
 - v) asks the Town Clerk to inform the Isle of Wight Council accordingly.
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19/18 BONIFACE FIELDS DEVELOPMENT

- a) Report 11/18 for this meeting provided an update on the development of Boniface Fields with details of the letting arrangements for three of the four Portacabins and the provision of an additional 20 Allotments.
- b) The advice from the Pre-Planning Application Advice service had been received and circulated to Members today.

It was proposed by Councillor Leigh Gedes, seconded by Councillor Dave Logan and unanimously resolved that:

- in the context of the Planning Advice, initial works on the development be approved as follows:
- o alterations to the lower Portacabin of the two storey set, including disabled toilet, large sink, drainage and electrical works: £7,300;
 - o external site works, including CCTV, external lighting and testing: £6,600; and
 - o allotment preparation, including marking out, grass clearing, repairs to existing toilet block and provision of two eternal taps: £1,100.
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20/18 ALLOTMENTS ALLOCATIONS

- a) Arrangements for the allocation of the 20 new Allotments in the lower of the two Boniface Fields were set out in Report 12/18.
- b) The Assistant Clerk reported that 26 Expression of Interest Forms had already been received.
- c) Councillors Brian Lucas and James Toogood were thanked for their willingness to mark out the individual areas.
- d) Councillor Tony Martin asked how specific plots would be allocated to successful applicants and the Clerk responded that specific allocations by Allotment Number would be incorporated in the draw.

It was proposed by Councillor Tony Martin, seconded by Councillor Brian Lucas and unanimously resolved that:

the arrangements for the allocation of the new Allotments in Boniface Fields set out in Report 12/18 for this meeting be adopted.

21/18 PEDESTRIANISATION

- a) Report 13/18 recorded the launch of the local conversation about the possible pedestrianisation of the High Street between its junctions with Church Street and Spring Hill at the Annual Consultation event on 29 January.
- b) It also listed the work still needed to be completed before meaningful consultations with residents, traders and landlords are possible, hopefully by April.
- c) Councillor Stewart Blackmore said that it would be important to respond positively to media interest in the proposals.

22/18 FIRST AID HUT

- a) The First Aid Hut on the Esplanade is an essential base for the Town Council's Beach Safety project but its condition has deteriorated to the extent that significant refurbishment is now essential.
- b) The required works were identified in Report 14/18 at an anticipated cost of £5,060.
- c) Councillor James Toogood outlined the extent of the necessary works and the reasons for them.

It was proposed by Councillor James Toogood, seconded by Councillor Stewart Blackmore and unanimously resolved to:

- i) approve the refurbishment of the First Aid Hut by the end of March in order for it to be fit for use for this season's Beach Safety project;
- ii) agree the anticipated cost of £5,060; and
- iii) authorise the Clerk to re-open discussions with the Isle of Wight Council for them to fulfil their duties as Landlord in contributing to the costs of the work.

23/18 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

- a) A letter from the Isle of Wight Council's Recreation and Public Services Manager Lee Matthews received by email on 5 February asked the Town Council to indicate no later than the end of March their preferred option for Grounds Maintenance from 1 January 2019.
- b) It was agreed to leave this matter to the Town Council's meeting of 12 March.

24/18 ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL BUDGET 2018/19

- a) Report 16/18 summarised the savings proposals from the Isle of Wight Council to achieve a balanced Budget for 2018/19.
- b) Councillor Brian Lucas said that many of the savings identified in the Report as Efficiency Savings in fact would have a detrimental impact of the lives of many of the Island's most vulnerable residents.
- c) Councillor Stewart Blackmore added that the savings were being achieved by taking money from the people who needed it most.

25/18 VENTNOR EAST CASUAL VACANCY

The requirement to advertise the Casual Vacancy for Ventnor East was noted.

26/18 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

- a) The Town Clerks' Report – 18/18 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions at this time.
- b) It included information on the latest meeting of the South Wight Parishes Health & Wellbeing Forum, the initial meeting of the Annual Con nine Town & Parish Councils not in membership, or about to cease membership of the Isle of Wight Association of Local

Councils, the latest meeting with the officers of the Ventnor Business Association, the Annual Consultation event on 29 January and the latest meetings of the Working Groups.

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public in attendance at this time.

27/18 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

In view of the confidential nature of the following item:

it was resolved under the Public Bodies Admissions to Meetings (1960) Act: to exclude the Public and Press whilst the next item is under discussion as it is of a confidential nature.

The Meeting closed at 9.05 pm

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE

Draft