



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS 7PM

12 MARCH 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

NO. SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

There were 25 members of the public present.

- a) Larry Allen, as at the February meeting acting as spokesperson for a group of traders from the Esplanade and the High Street, asked what the Town Council's next step would be in the discussion of possible pedestrianisation.
 - b) The Mayor responded that the only matter on tonight's Agenda was the arrangements for the consultation about it.
 - c) In addition to their concerns about what they felt to be a potential threat to their business as expressed and recorded with the Minutes of the Town Council's February meeting, the two common themes from the traders present were demands to know why the Town Council had raised this issue and that the proposed consultation on it be abandoned now.
 - d) The Mayor consistently reminded all present that the Town Council had not yet made any other decision about the potential for pedestrianisation in the town other than to consult on it, the arrangements for which were set out in the Report for Agenda item 9 of this meeting – for which the Mayor invited them to remain.
 - e) The traders left the meeting as the Mayor announced that the business of the meeting as set out on the Agenda for it would commence.
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29/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor James Toogood.

30/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Tony Marvin and Stewart Blackmore declared an interest in Item 12 of this evening's Agenda.

31/18 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 12 February 2018, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
 - b) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meeting of 27 February 2018 were noted.
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32/18 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance report for this meeting (19/18) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 28 February 2018 and a list of all payments made during February 2018.
- b) Also included was a listing of budget variances during the first eleven months of the financial year.

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

33/18 BONIFACE FIELDS ALLOTMENTS

- a) In preparation for the opening of the new Allotments in the lower of the two Boniface Fields, drafts for a Constitution for an Allotment Association and a Tenancy Agreement were attached to Report 20/18 for Members' consideration.
- b) Councillor Leigh Geddes said they looked to be standard and fit for their purpose.
- c) Councillor Town Marvin proposed that the Town Councillor membership of the Allotment Association' Committee be the Member for Bonchurch and Councillor Brian Lucas indicated his willingness to accept that role.
- d) Councillor Leigh Geddes said that she was willing to act as Deputy for the role.
- e) Councillor Brian Lucas asked that a requirement to keep each individual's Allotment largely weed free be added to the Tenancy Agreement.

It was proposed by Councillor Dave Logan, seconded by Councillor Tony Marvin and unanimously resolved that:

- i) the draft documents for a new Allotment Association to manage the Boniface Fields Allotments and a Tenancy Agreement for Allotment holders, as amended in line with 2e above, be adopted; and
- ii) the Councillor for the Bonchurch Ward be appointed as the Town Council's representative on the Allotment Association Committee with Councillor Leigh Geddes as Deputy.

34/1 BONIFACE FIELDS WORK PROGRAMME

- a) Report 21/18 for this meeting set out the initial programme of planned works on the site to enable the site to be used safely and effectively.
- b) It also identified an additional expenditure for the works of £2,991.

It was proposed by Councillor Leigh Geddes, seconded by Councillor Dave Logan and resolved to:

- i) confirm the initial works programme as identified in the quotation attached to Report 21/18;
- ii) agree the additional £2,991 required to complete it.

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

agree in principle to accept a Tenancy at Will for the older of the Portacabins on the Upper Field.

35/18 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

- a) A letter from the Isle of Wight Council's Recreation and Public Services Manager Lee Matthews requested the Town Council to indicate no later than the end of March its preferred options for Grounds Maintenance from 1 January 2019.
- b) The letter had been discussed initially at the February meeting of the Town Council and, subsequently, by its Assets & Services Working Group.

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Delian Fry and unanimously resolved to inform the Isle of Wight Council that:

- i) in respect of the Community Spaces it wishes to continue to manage its own local contractor extending the current agreement beyond 2019 (Option 1); and
- ii) in respect of Ventnor Park the Town Council is prepared in principle to provide additional 'Top Up' funding to ensure the performance standard of the Park is maintained to the current level or better (Option 1) but in return it expects to manage the Park directly.

36/18 FIRST AID HUT LEASE: HEADS OF TERMS

- a) The Town Council's 5-year lease on the Esplanade's First Aid Hut expired in July last year.
 - b) Heads of Terms for a new lease were attached to Report 23/18 and had been considered by
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the Town Council's Assets & Services Working Group leading to its recommendation to the Town Council to accept them as a basis for a new lease.

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

agree the Heads of Terms attached to Report 23/18 as the basis of a new lease for the First Aid Hut.

37/18 PEDESTRIANISATION CONSULTATIONS

- a) In launching a conversation about the potential for pedestrianising part of the High Street at the Annual Budget meeting on 29 January, the Mayor had made it clear that full consultations with all the town's stakeholders would be arranged in April.
- b) Report 24/18 set out the proposed framework for those consultations as agreed by the Town Council's Community Development Working Group.
- c) Councillor Brian Lucas asked if all the information needed about the feasibility of pedestrianisation would be available to which the Clerk responded that it was likely that there would be more than one stage of consultations as plans developed.
- d) Councillor Billy Hill suggested that perhaps a delay in the consultation process would show that the Town Council was responding to the representations made through the Public Forum.
- e) Councillor Leigh Geddes commented that the conversation about the future of the town centre needed both stimulating and extending and that the proposed framework would achieve that.
- f) Councillor Delian Fry reminded the meeting that this is primarily about the town's regeneration, not simply pedestrianisation and that it was important to involve residents as soon as possible in the whole programme.
- g) Councillor Stephen Cockett said that he agreed fully with the agreed structure and looked forward to Councillors' involvement with the proposed publication that would provide the factual basis for the consultation.
- h) The Mayor added that there was now a possibility of including a disability access survey of the town centre in the information being gathered.

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

- i) agree the framework for the consultation as set out in Report 24/18; and
 - ii) approve the funding identified as necessary for it.
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38/18 GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION

As set out in Report 25/18, compliance with the European Union Directive titled the *General Data Protection Regulation* is required by all public authorities, including Town & Parish Councils by 25 May this year.

It was proposed by Councillor Leigh Geddes seconded by Councillor Billy Hill and unanimously resolved to:

- i) note the requirements for compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation;
 - ii) formally appoint its Economic Development Officer Nick Cox as its Data Protection Officer; and
 - iii) invite Reports to future Town Council meetings on the requirements for compliance with the Data Protection Regulation in conjunction with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).
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39/18 VENTNOR EAST CASUAL VACANCY

As no requests for a by-election to fill the current vacancy for Ventnor East were received by the Isle of Wight Council's Elections Officer within the time allowed, the Town Council is now

required to fill it by co-option.

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Dave Logan and unanimously resolved to:

- i) fill the current casual vacancy for Ventnor East by following the Co-option Policy attached to Report 26/18 for this meeting; and
 - ii) appoint the Mayor and Councillors Stewart Blackmore, Leigh Geddes and Delian Fry to form the Interview Group that will also be attended by the Town Clerk.
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40/18 WAR MEMORIAL

- a) The Royal British Legion Ventnor Branch have requested assistance from the Town Council is securing the restoration of the slate memorial to those who died in the second world war that had fallen from the main Memorial in time for the major event being planned for 11 November this year.
- b) Report 27/18 outlined the Legion's suggestions for how the work might be funded with the assistance of the Town Council.
- c) Councillor Leigh Geddes said that the importance of the Memorial to many people in the Town justified the Town Council's acceptance of these proposals.

It was proposed by Councillor Leigh Geddes, seconded by Councillor Brian Lucas and resolved to:

- i) submit an application to the War Memorials Trust for the repair of the damaged section of the town's War Memorial in a total of £4,510; and
- ii) agree to fund the 25% match funding that would be required for it if the application is successful.

Councillor Tony Marvin took no part in either the discussion of or the decision about this item.

41/18 NEW HEALTH & WELLBEING STRATEGY

- a) The Isle of Wight Council's Cabinet approved a new Strategy for its Health and Wellbeing Board for the period 2018—21 at its meeting of 8 March.
 - b) Report 28/18 noted the absence of any reference to Town and Parish Councils in the Strategy.
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42/18 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

- a) The Town Clerks' Report – 29/18 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions at this time.
 - b) It included information on the First Aid Hut, Spring Hill Gardens, Upper Ventnor Community Association, Median Valley Students, Working Groups' meeting and the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils (IWALC).
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PUBLIC FORUM

Fred Woodworth said how important it was that the town now focused on solutions rather than problems.

The Meeting closed at 9 pm

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE
