



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS 7PM

13 AUGUST 2018

## MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors: Stewart Blackmore (Chair), Tony Marvin, Leigh Geddes, James Toogood, Brian Lucas, Dave Logan, Billy Hill, Ian Bond

## NO. SUBJECT

### PUBLIC FORUM

- a) There were five members of the public present.
- b) The Mayor commented how successful this year's Carnival events had been and thanked the Carnival Committee for its excellent work and the many volunteers.
- c) Judy Ballinger asked if there was any way in which the Town Council could engage with the Botanic Garden to assist its development.

### 80/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jason Mack, Delian Fry and Stephen Cockett

### 81/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Brian Lucas declared an interest in item 11 on the Agenda and Councillor Leigh Geddes declared an interest in item 7.

### 82/18 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 9 July 2018, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meetings of 17 July 2018 and 8 August 2018 were noted.
- c) The Minutes of the meeting of Ventnor Library Steering Group on 17 July 2018 were noted.

### 83/18 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance report for this meeting (74/18) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 July 2018 and a list of all payments made during July 2018.
- b) Also included was a listing of budget variances during the first four months of the financial year.

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

### 84/18 BONIFACE FIELDS: ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL

- a) Report 75/18 for this meeting set out the details of a proposal from St Catherine's School to use an area of Boniface Fields as a playing field during school opening times.
- b) Councillor James Toogood identified the importance of retaining access to the upper field.

**It was proposed by Councillor JT, seconded by Councillor BL and unanimously resolved that:**

the Town Council supports the application by St Catherine's School for a lease from the Isle of Wight Council of an area of Boniface Fields around the astro turf area for its exclusive use for 38 weeks of the year from 8am-4pm inclusive.

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**85/18 SPRING HILL GARDEN MAINTENANCE**

- a) A proposal by the Town Council's Assets and Services Working Group for the maintenance of the newly refurbished Spring Hill Garden site was the subject of Report 76/18.
- b) The Mayor stated how good the project is and thanked the Big Lottery, the anonymous Ventnor resident donor, Councillor James Toogood and Neil Geddes for their various contributions to a significant asset for the town.
- c) Councillor James Toogood added his thanks to the contractor, Dixcey Landscapping, for the quality the work.
- d) The garden will be formally opened at 2pm on August Bank Holiday.

**It was proposed by Councillor Tony Marvin, seconded by Councillor James Toogood and unanimously resolved that:**

the Town Council agrees the proposed arrangement for the Garden's routine maintenance until further notice.

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**86/18 ESPLANADE WATER FOUNTAIN**

- a) Report 77/18 identified the view of the Town Council's Assets and Services Working Group that it was time to refurbish the water Fountain in the context of the possibility of a grant from Down to the Coast.
- b) Councillor James Toogood explained the need for the works and added that the original specification that had been the basis of the quotation for the works attached to the Report needed additions.

**It was proposed by Councillor Leigh Geddes, seconded by Councillor Brian Lucas and unanimously resolved that the Town Council :**

- i) ask its Clerk to submit a funding application to Down to the Coast for the restoration works up to the maximum grant level of £5,000 on the basis of updated estimates; and
  - ii) agrees to fund the 40% match funding requirement if the application is successful.
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**87/18 PARKING CHARGES AT SMUGGLERS' HAVEN**

- a) The Isle of Wight Council's explanation for its proposed introduction of parking charges at Smugglers' Haven was included in Report 78/18.
- b) Members expressed concerns about the impact it was likely to have on residents' use of the parking for walking around the area and that the installation had been done prior to the announcement of Parking Order and related consultation..

**It was proposed by Councillor Billy Hill, seconded by Councillor Brian Lucas and unanimously resolved that:**

the Clerk be asked to register these concerns in response to the current consultation on the introduction of charges.

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**88/18 CHRIS ASHMAN, DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION, ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL**

- a) Chris Ashman joined the meeting at this point and the Mayor welcomed him and invited him to address the meeting on the Isle of Wight Council's draft Regeneration Strategy.
  - b) He thanked the meeting for the opportunity to discuss the draft Strategy directly with the Town Council and said that he had been working with its Officers since his appointment in January 2017.
  - c) He said that the Strategy was driven partly by need to generate income to protect services but also by the wider significance of value to communities across the Island which is why it was framed by the concept of Area Based Regeneration.
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- d) He reminded the meeting that the Strategy had been developed in consultation with those communities and that the present document is a summation of the intelligence gathered to date.
  - e) He stressed how important it is to get the final document absolutely right as it will set the Agenda for the next 5 – 10 years.
  - f) In response to a question about the Budget for the Plan's delivery he said that there was both revenue funding available to increase capacity and capital funding availability for promoting delivery as the Strategy is a key priority within the Isle of Wight Council's Corporate Plan.
  - g) Councillor Dave Logan said he was concerned about Ventnor's inclusion in the Bay as Shanklin and Ventnor work very differently and any Budget availability will be swallowed up by the larger towns of Sandown and Shanklin.
  - h) Chris Ashman responded by welcoming Ventnor's evidence-based approach as a model for other Island areas.
  - i) Councillor Brian Lucas commented that the Strategy included support for youth development in Ryde but not elsewhere and Chris Ashman outlined the nature of the support and the reasons for it.
  - j) Councillor Billy Hill asked about the priority given to small businesses and Chris Ashman referred the meeting to the section on business development that included working closely with the Chamber of Commerce to identify gaps and the Strategy's focus on the important area of Basic Skills development.
  - k) The Mayor asked where the Department for Communities and Local Government fitted in and Chris Ashman said that he was encouraged by its supportive approach and the present administration's connections with government at both political and officer level.
  - l) Chris Ashman added that the case for all Islands to be provided for within the new funding structures being developed to replace European funding post-Brexit and remarked that the Local Economic Partnership has been supportive of the Isle of Wight and has just relaunched its Prosperity Fund.
  - m) The Mayor thanked Chris Ashman for taking the time to meet with the Town Council and said that both Members and Officers looked forward to the continuing collaborative working with him and his colleagues.

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## 89/18 REGENERATION STRATEGY

- a) The recently published Isle of Wight Council's draft Regeneration Strategy had been previously circulated to Members and a copy was included in the papers for this meeting.
- b) Councillor Tony Martin commented that the place-based approach adopted by the Strategy's use of regions of 30,000 population (page 51) produces odd boundaries.
- c) Councillor Ian Bond said that: Ventnor's economy is discrete and its regeneration needs a different focus from that of Sandown and Shanklin.

**It was proposed by Councillor Ian Bond seconded by Councillor James Toogood and unanimously resolved that:**

the Town Council will submit a corporate response to the consultation on the Isle of Wight Council's draft Regeneration strategy and asks a working group of the Clerk, Economic Development Officer and Councillors Jason Mack, Tony Marvin, Billy Hill and James Toogood to prepare a draft for it based on the discussion at this meeting to be considered at the September Town Council meeting.

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**90/18 VENTNOR DAY 2019**

- a) The Town Council's Community Development Officer Tony McCarthy was invited by the Mayor to open the discussion of this item as indicated in Report 81/18 that reflected the decision on the 2019 date at the Community Development Working Group meeting of 24 July.
- b) Tony McCarthy outlined the reasons for remaining with the now established first Saturday in July that been settled on after careful planning to avoid other major events.
- c) He stressed the value of having the same day each year and of working in partnership with other events on same day.
- d) In order to comply with the Standing Orders' process for changing a previous decision of the it was agreed to return to this matter at the September meeting.

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**91/18 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT**

- a) The Town Clerks' Report – 81/18 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions at this time.
- b) It included information on meetings with the Upper Ventnor Community Association Committee and Ventnor Business Association, the Esplanade Noticeboard, the latest meetings of the Town Council's Working Groups and of the South Wight Parishes Health and Wellbeing Forum.

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**PUBLIC FORUM**

There were no comments or questions at this time.

The Mayor thanked County Councillor Gary Peace for his attendance at the meeting.

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**92/18 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.

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The Meeting closed at 8.55 pm

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SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE

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