



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

VIRTUAL MEETING

7PM

11 JANUARY 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MINUTE SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

The arrangements for the meeting providing for public access for the Public Forum were on the web site. There were no members of the public present. County Councillor Gary Peace was welcomed to the meeting by the Mayor.

1/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no Apologies for Absence.

2/21 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 14 December 2020, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 5 January were noted.

3/21 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance Report for this meeting (1/21) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 December 2020 and a list of all payments made during December 2020.
- b) Also included was a listing of budget variances during the first nine months of the 2020/21 financial year.

It was proposed by Councillor James Toogood, seconded by Councillor Steve Milford, and unanimously resolved that:

the Finance Report be accepted.

4/21 NEW PUBLIC TOILET

- a) Report 3/21 for this meeting listed the decisions the Town Council has made for tendering the contract for the construction of the new toilet .
- b) The report included the use of delegated powers to identify DN Associates Ltd as the Town Council's Preferred Contractor for the works.

5/21 VENTNOR PARK

- a) Report 4/21 summarised the changes to the draft lease our Solicitor has secured, in particular the adoption of the Town Council's preferred definition of Permitted Uses
- b) The other change is the exclusion of the Weather Station from the lease.
- c) Despite delays, it should be noted that Ventnor Town Council are grateful to officers at the Isle of Wight Council for facilitating the Lease.

It was proposed by Councillor Brian Lucas, seconded by Councillor James Toogood, and unanimously resolved to:

agree the amended Lease and authorise its signature.

6/21 31 Bus

- a) Report 5/21 provides the background to continuing the 31 Bus Service based on two days per week, for six months, reviewable after three months.
- b) However, due to Covid-19 and government guidance, the service was suspended, resuming on 18 August 2020 with necessary measures in place – running on Tuesdays and Fridays each week.
- c) After three full months of operation, financial information was provided to the Assets and Services Group Meeting of 15 December 2020.

It was proposed by Councillor Stephen Cockett, seconded by Councillor Dave Logan, and unanimously resolved that:

the No:31 Bus continues at its current level of service for the remainder of the 2020/21 financial year.

7/21 LOCAL ELECTIONS

- a) Report 6/21 provides information about the Island’s Local Elections to be held on 6 May 2021, specific to Ventnor.
- b) Comments from Councillors regarding Ward boundaries and the number of Councillors listed in the new Wards was noted.

8/21 ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL BUDGET CONSULTATION

- a) Report 7/21 asks Members to consider responding to the current consultation on the Isle of Wight Council’s 2021/22 Budget.
- b) General comments were received that all services are vital, answers come from Central Government and not the Isle of Wight Council and Ventnor Town Council does not have a role in the decision-making.
- c) County Councillor Gary Peace suggested that representations by individual Councillors could be made directly to him.

It was unanimously agreed that:

there are no decisions to be made by Ventnor Town Council.

9/21 TOWN CLERKS’ REPORT

- a) The Town Clerks’ Report – 9/21 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions at this time.
 - b) It included information on support for vulnerable residents, Outdoor Gym, Office closure, Public Toilets and the dates of the meetings of the Working Groups.
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The meeting closed at 7:40pm.

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE