



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

VIRTUAL MEETING

7PM

8 MARCH 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors: Stewart Blackmore (Chair), Stephen Cockett, Brian Lucas, 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.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor James Toogood declared an interest in Agenda item 8.

21/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no Apologies for Absence.

22/21 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 8 February 2021, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 9 February 2021 were noted.

23/21 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance Report for this meeting 19/21 had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 28 February 2021 and a list of all payments made during February 2021.
- b) Also included was a listing of budget variances during the first 11 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.

24/21 VENTNOR PARK

- a) Report 20/21 included information on the Isle of Wight Council's charges for the hire of the Park and a proposal to hold Ventnor Day 2021 in the Park.
- b) Councillor Ian Bond said that no charging for entry to the Park by event organisers should be allowed.
- c) Councillor Steve Milford commented that he agreed with the no charge for entry approach and that he supported the proposal for Ventnor Day 2021 and the related Budget for it.

It was proposed by Councillor Steve Milford, seconded by Councillor Delian Fry and unanimously resolved that it:

- i) agrees the schedule of charges for the use of the Park by event organisers as set out in section 2 of Report 20/21; and
- ii) authorises its Community Development Officer to organise Ventnor Day 2021 in the Park with a Budget of up to £3,000.

25/21 MANAGEMENT OF VENTNOR'S CAR PARKS

- a) In the continuing absence of a response from the Isle of Wight Council to the Town Council's

Business Case for the management of all the town's car parks submitted in December 2018, Report 21/21 sets out the case of entering a formal Expression of Interest under the Localism Act 2011's Community Right to Challenge.

- b) The Mayor opened the discussion by stating that he could see no other option for resolving the issue of the management of the town's car parks
- c) Councillor Brian Lucas agreed that the Town Council should use the Community Right to Challenge in these circumstances and negotiate carefully on rental agreements.
- d) Councillor Stephen Cockett asked if the leases for the car parks included a break clause; the Clerk assured him that was indeed the case.

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Steve Milford and unanimously resolved that the Town Council:

asks its Clerk to prepare an Expression of Interest in the management of all the town's Car Parks and submit it to the Isle of Wight Council under the Community Right to Challenge provisions.

26/21 BONIFACE FIELDS

- a) Information on developments with the Lease for the area, damage to the exit's Turn Left sign and proposals from the Ventnor Community Shed was included in Report 22/21 for this meeting.
 - b) The Mayor welcomed the proposals and congratulated the Ventnor Community Shed on its successful development and its innovative proposals.
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27/21 ESPLANADE TRAFFIC FLOW

Councillor James Toogood left the meeting at this point.

- a) Following the dangerous nature of the traffic flow on the Esplanade during the 2020 season a proposal has been developed for ameliorating the situation this coming season and is attached to Report 23/21 for this meeting
- b) Councillor Ian Bond asked why this was being considered when the Town Council's policy was to reduce traffic on the Esplanade rather than encourage it.
- c) Councillor Brian Lucas responded that he was in favour of pedestrianising the Esplanade in time but this was a very simple step that would reduce the risks of the current arrangements; he added that he felt the loading bays should be retained.
- d) Councillor Stephen Cockett said that a full vision for the future of the Esplanade would be wonderful but meanwhile this was a very simple step to protect pedestrians.
- e) Councillor Dave Logan welcomed the simple amendments but felt that consultation was important before proceeding.
- f) Councillor Delian Fry reminded the meeting that a child had once been killed in a traffic accident on the Esplanade and that everything possible should be done to prevent anything like that happening again.

It was proposed by Councillor Steve Milford, seconded by Councillor Ian Bond and unanimously resolved that the Town Council agrees to:

forward the proposal to the Isle of Wight Council as the Traffic Authority for their assessment of it and consult with the businesses and residents in the area.

28/21 31 Bus

Councillor James Toogood re-joined the meeting at this point.

- a) The Town Council's current commitment to funding the 31 Bus Service expires on 31 March this year.
 - b) Councillor Brian Lucas began the discussion by saying that he was frustrated by the continuing discussions of a service that had proved to be unsustainable.
 - c) Councillor Steve Milford responded that the current Covid conditions had reduced the use of
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all buses and that as a result this is not a good time to make a decision on the future of this one.

- d) Councillor Stephen Cockett confirmed that people are currently not happy to use the service and that the feedback he had received about its future was divided.

It was proposed by Councillor Stephen Cockett, seconded by Councillor Brian Lucas and unanimously resolved that the Town Council agree:

to continue the service at its present level for four months to allow time for alternatives to be fully explored.

29/21 AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS

- a) A revised edition of the Town Council's Standing Orders has been circulated to Members for their consideration and a link to the proposed new version is provided in Report 24/21 for this meeting.
- b) Councillor Ian Bond explained the basis on which he had developed the proposed revisions, while working with the Clerk on them.
- c) The Mayor, Councillor James Toogood and the Clerk thanked Councillor Ian Bond for the quality of the presented revision.

It was proposed by Councillor Ian Bond, seconded by Councillor James Toogood and unanimously resolved that the Town Council agrees to:

adopt the circulated version as the Town Council's Standing Orders.

30/21 ASSETS AND SERVICES WORKING GROUP

- a) Councillor Ian Bond said he was concerned that the Group's think tank function need to be at the direction of the Town Council.
- b) Councillor Brian Lucas commented that ideas emerged from discussion and were often worth exploring to establish their feasibility before making recommendations to the Town Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Ian Bond , seconded by Councillor Delian Fry and unanimously resolved that:

subject to the addition of the words 'at the request of the Town Council' to paragraph 4(iii) after the word 'exploring' the circulated draft be adopted.

31/21 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

- a) The Town Clerks' Report – 27/21 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions at this time.
- b) It included information on support for vulnerable residents, opening up services, office management, Dudley Road car park, the latest, meeting of the South Wight Parishes Health and Wellbeing Forum and the meetings of the Working Groups.
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The meeting closed at 8:47 pm.

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE
