



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS

7PM

10 JANUARY 2022

Members Present

Councillors: Stephen Cockett (Chair) Steph Toogood, Ian Bond, Brian Lucas, Phil Warren, John Watkins, Mark Jefferies, Steve Cooper and James Toogood

MINUTE SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

- a) There was one member of the public present who spoke about her cabin built in Spring Hill that has been refused retrospective planning permission. She said that the development enhanced the landscape and improved the garden and that similar developments had been permitted on the Island.
 - b) The Mayor invited Councillor Phil Warren as Chair of the Town Council's Planning Committee to respond. He informed the meeting of the process the Committee had followed and its approval of the development, advising that he felt that she had strong grounds for appeal.
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DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest at this time.

1/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Julie Hutchison.

2/22 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 13 December 2021, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
 - b) The Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 22 December 2021 were noted.
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3/22 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance Report for this meeting, 1/22, had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 December 2021 and a list of all payments made during December 2021.
- b) Also included was a listing of budget variances during the first nine months of the financial year.

It was proposed by Councillor Steve Cooper, seconded by Councillor Steph Toogood and unanimously resolved that
the Finance Report be accepted.

4/22 LOWTHERVILLE WARD CO-OPTION

The Town Council's Co-Option Policy was attached to Report 2/22 for this meeting and it was generally agreed that the Policy should be reviewed at a future meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor Brian Lucas, seconded by Councillor Ian Bond and unanimously resolved:

to ask its Clerk to initiate its Co-option Policy to fill the current vacancy for a Member to represent the Lowtherville Ward.

5/22 PLANNING COMMITTEE VACANCY

The resignation of one Member of the Planning Committee has created a vacancy as its Terms of Reference specify a membership of at least five.

It was proposed by Councillor Steve Cooper, seconded by Councillor Phil Warren and unanimously resolved that:

Councillor Brian Lucas be appointed a member of the Town Council's Planning Committee.

6/22 SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

- a) The Mayor introduced the item, thanking the Business Development Officer for his work on the policy to date.
- b) He went on to suggest that in view of the differing views about the preferred length of the document it be referred to the February meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor Stephen Cockett, seconded by Councillor Ian Bond and unanimously resolved to:

revisit the matter at the February meeting to allow time for more discussion.

7/22 NEW WEB SITE

- a) Councillor Ian Bond, Chair of the Website Working Group, introduced his updating report on early progress with the project and responded to comments on his written summary of the Group's work that was attached to Report 5/22 for this meeting.
 - b) He said that he was encouraged by the good start that had been made and that there is now a target date for the launch of the new site in March.
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8/22 MARLBOROUGH ROAD PUBLIC TOILET

- a) Report 6/22 provided the context for the potential break of the Lease of the Marlborough Road Public Toilet once the construction of the new Public Toilet in the Central Car Park is completed.
- b) It was noted that the toilets were valued by residents but acknowledged that they did not provide the important accessibility and continuing to carry the cost of an additional toilet would not be responsible financial management.

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

give the Isle of Wight Council notice of the Town Council's decision to terminate the Lease of the Marlborough Road Public Toilets by 30 September 2022.

9/22 BEACH SAFETY

- a) A quotation from Ryde Beach Lifeguard for full cover by two Lifeguards from 11am to 6pm for the whole of July and August at a cost of £17,000 a year was attached to Report 7/22 for this meeting.
 - b) Councillor Steph Toogood said that providing cover for just July and August is insufficient and beach safety support needs to be available for June and September as well.
 - c) Councillor Steve Cooper asked about the provision of Lifeguards on other Island Beaches.
 - d) Councillor James Toogood added that the season is much longer than it used to be and Councillor Brian Lucas agreed.
 - e) The Clerk responded that the staff team would assess the resources available for a longer Beach Safety service and report to the February meeting.
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10/22 WELL BEING CAFÉ

Now renamed as the Wellbeing Café, the Town Council's Anxiety Café has grown to a level at which it needs three sessions a week as set out in Report 9/22 for this meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor John Watkins, seconded by Councillor Mark Jefferies and unanimously resolved to:

approve the proposed extension of the Wellbeing Café to three weekly sessions.

11/22 ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL'S BUDGET CONSULTATION

Report 9/22 provided Members with details of the Isle of Wight Council's Budget consultation for the financial year 2022/23.

12/22 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

- a) The Town Clerks' Report – 10/22 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions at this time.
 - b) It included the Christmas Celebration, Car Parks, the South Wight Parishes Health and Wellbeing Forum, Shore Road Toilets, the meetings of Working Groups and repairs at Salisbury Gardens.
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The meeting closed at 8.25pm

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE
