



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS

7PM

8 AUGUST 2022

Members Present

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

## MINUTE SUBJECT

### PUBLIC FORUM

- a) There were two members of the public present.
- b) A member of the public asked whether charging for the new toilets had been considered and Councillor James Toogood explained why it had been decided not to apply a charge.
- c) Another question was about progress with the new town map and the Town Council's Business Support Officer responded at the invitation of the Mayor.
- d) County Councillor Rodney Downer was present and told the meeting that the work affecting the Shore Road toilets would be completed this week and the toilets then inspected by Island Roads.
- e) He added that he had spoken with the Isle of Wight Council's Lee Matthews about the North Street playground and could confirm that the new swings are on order for the Lowtherville playground.

### 77/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Mayor and Councillor James Toogood declared an interest in the Finance Report item 5)

### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence as all Members were present.

### 79/22 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 11 July 2022, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings of 14 July 2022 and 2 August 2022 were noted.
- c) Councillor Ian Bond raised a Point of Order in relation to the Clerk's exclusion of a motion from the Agenda of this meeting under Section 11 of Standing Orders.

### 80/22 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance Report for this meeting, 56/22, had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 July 2022 and a list of all payments made during July 2022.
- b) It also included an urgent proposal to authorise the purchase and installation of a pump for using surface water at the Park and the Cascade in response to the current hosepipe ban.
- c) Councillor James Toogood explained the arrangements for the installation and confirmed that that work is included in the estimated cost.
- d) Councillor Brian Lucas said he was concerned about taking too much water from the Park's river and Councillor James Toogood responded that following discussions with the Town Council's Grounds Maintenance contractor he was confident that the required volumes to be extracted would not affect the river and that the situation would be carefully monitored.

**It was proposed by Councillor Phil Warren, seconded by Councillor Stephen Cockett and unanimously resolved to:**

- i) agree the Finance Report; and

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- ii) approve additional expenditure of up to £800 for the purchase and installation of pumps for use in Ventnor Park and the Cascade.
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**81/22 BANK ACCOUNT SIGNATORIES**

Report 57/22 for this meeting provided Members with an update on the present registered signatories for the Town Council's HSBC Accounts.

**It was proposed by Councillor James Toogood, seconded by Councillor Mark Jefferies and unanimously resolved:**

to appoint Councillor Brian Lucas as a signatory on the Town Council's HSBC Accounts.

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**82/22 POVERTY IN VENTNOR**

- a) Report 58/22 listed the initiatives the Town Council had taken and supported in response to poverty in the town as its extent and intensity have grown.
- b) Councillor Ian Bond said that he was aware of local authorities in other places offering designated Warm Spaces for residents to access and suggested the Town Council could consider offering the same in spaces such as the Library.
- c) The Mayor added St Catherine's Church and the Green Room on Tuesdays and Thursdays as other possibilities and Mark Jefferies said it might be possible for Lowtherville's St Margaret's Hall to consider a similar offering.
- d) Councillor Stephen Cockett said he would circulate a proposal that had been considered by the Sustainability and Biodiversity Working Group to aid home installation in the town.
- e) Councillor John Watkins informed the meeting that the Wellbeing Café has access to a benefits advisor.
- f) Councillor Lucas noted the plans of an established community café in the town to offer a warm space to residents, including subsidised hot meals, and that hopefully the council could consider some financial support of such volunteer initiatives.

**It was proposed by Councillor Mark Jefferies, seconded by Councillor James Toogood and unanimously resolved to:**

note the Town Council's responses to poverty in the town to date and identify any other initiatives that could be developed to challenge and mitigate poverty in the town.

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**83/22 REGENERATION PROJECTS**

Report 59/22 identified five of the Town Council's Major Projects as needing the support of the Isle of Wight Council for their delivery and the bases for that support.

**It was proposed by Councillor Phil Warren, seconded by Councillor Stephen Cockett and unanimously resolved to:**

request a meeting with the Isle of Wight Council's political and officer regeneration leaders to progress as many as possible of the five projects identified in Report 59/22 for this meeting.

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**84/22 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT**

- a) The Town Clerks' Report – 60/22 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions at this time.
- b) It included the major coastal protection works due to start next year, the work done by the Friends of the Botanic Gardens round the Salisbury Gardens building, the new Litter Bins on the Beach. Skateboarding Classes and the dates of the Working Groups meetings.
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The meeting closed at 7.55pm

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE

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