



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS 7PM

14 JANUARY 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors: Stewart Blackmore (Chair), Leigh Geddes, Jason Mack, Brian Lucas, Dave Logan, Stephen Cockett, Ian Bond

No. SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present at this time. The County Councillor for Ventnor West Gary Peace was present.

1/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Tony Marvin and Delian Fry.

2/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest at this time.

3/19 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 10 December 2019, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
 - b) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meetings of 18 December 2018 and 8 January 2019 were noted.
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4/19 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance report for this meeting (1/19) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 December 2018 and a list of all payments made during December 2018.
- b) Also included was a listing of budget variances during the first nine months of the financial year.

It was proposed by Councillor Jason Mack, seconded by Councillor Brian Lucas and unanimously resolved that:
the Finance Report be accepted.

5/19 FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT

- a) The basis for the annual review of the Financial Risk Assessment by the Town Council was set out in Report 2/19 for this meeting.
- b) The current arrangements for the management of financial risks had been previously circulated to Members in advance of the meeting for comment and amendment.

It was proposed by Councillor Dave Logan, seconded by Councillor Jason Mack and unanimously resolved that:
the Town Council approves and adopts the circulated list of arrangements for the management of financial risk.

6/19 CASUAL VACANCY

Report 3/19 informed Members of the election of Colm Watling to the vacancy in Lowtherville Ward and the arrangements that would follow to fill the vacancy in the Ventnor West Ward.

7/19 SHORE ROAD TOILETS

- a) Report 4/19 set out the case for funding a major refurbishment of Shore Road Public Toilets.
- b) Councillor Brian Lucas said that although the toilets are functional they are now in serious need of repair and these works would add at least 10 years' useful life.
- c) Councillor Leigh commented that the toilets are particularly important to the many walkers exploring the area.

It was proposed by Councillor Leigh Geddes, seconded by Councillor Brian Lucas and unanimously resolved to:

- i) commission the refurbishment works for the Shore Road Public Toilets from MB Associates; and
 - ii) fund the cost on the basis of a 50% contribution from Reserves and 50% from the 2019/20 Precept.
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8/19 VENTNOR SKATEPARK REQUEST

- a) A request had been received from the Ventnor Skatepark Committee's Treasurer for the Town Council to hold funds donated towards its plans for new ramps.
- b) Councillor Brian Lucas said that he was pleased to hear of the renewed activity of the Skatepark Committee in seeking funding

It was proposed by Councillor Stephen Cockett, seconded by Councillor Dave Logan and unanimously resolved that:
the Town Council provides the requested banking facility.

141/19 HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (HALC)

- a) A meeting that HALC requested with the Island's four Town and Parish Councils that had joined it as Development Partners was held at Sandown's Broadway Centre on Thursday 10 January and attended by Councillor Jason Mack and the Clerk.
 - b) Councillor Jason Mack reported on the meeting and the reassurance that the Development Partner status would be retained with their full range of services available.
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9/19 ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL BUDGET 2019/20

- a) Report 7/19 provided the background for a discussion of the Isle of Wight Council's proposals for its 2019/20 Budget.
 - b) Councillor Brian Lucas said that the list of proposed savings represented the bottom of the barrel with little rational reason to differentiate between them.
 - c) Councillor Ian Bond remarked that the proposed additions to the car parking charges will be of interest to residents.
 - d) The Mayor said that he was concerned that once again they would affect people who are unable to fight back.
 - e) Councillor Jason Mack added that there are another two years of this level of cuts to come and asked how the Island cope could cope with even further substantial cuts to Adult Social Care and Childrens' Services
 - f) The Mayor highlighted the disappointing progress made so far with the move to Integrated Care Services and invited County Councillor to comment on these issues.
 - g) County Councillor Gary Peace responded that these proposals are very unpalatable and we are indeed scraping the bottom of the barrel. The hope for improvement rests with Regeneration plans and the potential for the Island to get specific assistance from government.
 - h) He added that the relatively slow progress with the commitment to One Public Service had
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been slow so far and needed to be moved forward as soon as possible.

- i) The Mayor thanked Councillor Gary Pease for his contribution and added that he felt the Council owed it to its constituents to respond to the Budget consultation.

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Ian Bond and unanimously resolved that:

the Mayor and Councillors Ian Bond and Jason Mack join the Clerk in developing a response to the Budget consultation reflecting this discussion.

10/19 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

- a) The Town Clerks' Report – 8/19 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions at this time.
 - b) It included information on St Catherine's School, Boniface Fields, Salisbury Gardens, the South Wight Parishes Health and Wellbeing Forum and the meetings of the Working Groups.
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PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

The Meeting closed at 7.50pm

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE
