



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

WINTER GARDENS

7PM

12 JULY 2010

## MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors: Debby Robinson (Mayor), Chris Bonney, David George, Steve Stubbings, Chris Welsford, Harry Rees.

## ITEM SUBJECT

### PUBLIC FORUM

The Mayor opened the Public Forum with 22 members of the public present.

- a) A member of the public urged that meetings are retained at 7pm
- b) The meeting began at 7.05pm

### 129/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

### 130/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Chris Welsford declared an interest as a County Councillor. Councillor Harry Rees declared an interest as Chair of Ventnor Business Association. Councillor Chris Bonney declared an interest in the Co-option of a Town Councillor.

### 131/10 CO-OPTION OF A TOWN COUNCILLOR

- a) The Mayor outlined the co-option process that had been followed as required to fill the remaining vacancy for Ventnor East.  
With Councillor Chris Bonney abstaining and Councillors Debby Robinson, Chris Welsford, Harry Rees, Steve Stubbings and David George voting in favour:  
**it was resolved that:**  
Gillian Jenner be co-opted to the Town Council as a Member for Ventnor East
- b) Councillor Gillian Jenner then joined her colleagues at the table and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

### 132/10 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the Town Council meetings of 14 and 28 June 2010 were considered.

**It was unanimously resolved by those present at the meeting of 14 June 2010:** that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 14 June be agreed as an accurate record of the business of that meeting and signed accordingly by the Mayor.

**It was unanimously resolved by those present at the meeting of 28 June 2010:** that subject to the change in the identification of the Mayor at that time, the Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 28 June be agreed as an accurate record of the business of that meeting and signed accordingly by the Mayor.

### 133/10 FINANCE

- a) The Finance report for this meeting had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 30 June 2010 and a list of payments made during June 2010.
- b) An accompanying paper set out the Precept related expenditure in the first quarter of the

- current financial year.
- c) Councillor Chris Welsford commented that the first quarter had proved very satisfactory overall in spite of a poor month of May which in addition to lower than predicted turnover also dealt with expenditure outstanding from the previous financial year.
  - d) He went on to record satisfaction with the Winter Gardens trading for the quarter with figures showing that the operation is moving in the right direction.
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#### 134/10 WINTER GARDENS REPORT

- a) The Town Clerk introduced his report on the Winter Gardens that included a summary of the first quarter trading with more detailed figures available to Members on a confidential basis due to their commercial sensitivity.
  - b) He also expressed his appreciation for the commitment to the future of the Winter Gardens and their willingness to work flexibly to a degree not often found. Some internal changes to the organisation of the staff team were also outlined.
  - c) Attached to the report was a detailed listing of the impressive emerging Summer Programme developed from a standing start by Simon Wheeler, the new Entertainments Manager. The Town Council asked that he be congratulated on his work to date.
  - d) The Mayor asked that suitable evening entertainment be arranged for the final day of the Carnival and a Members asked if a financial breakdown for the programme could be provided for the next meeting.
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#### 135/10 TOWN COUNCIL VACANCIES

- a) The Town Clerk reported that sufficient signatures of people requesting an election for each of the four remaining vacancies had now been received by the Elections Officer.
  - b) Consequently, elections will be held for two vacancies in Ventnor West and one in each of Lowtherville and St Lawrence on 9 September 2010.
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#### 136/10 PLANNING MATTERS

P/00714/10: 18 STEEPHILL COURT

**it was resolved:**

that approval be given to the application but that the Planning Committee be asked to give careful attention to the stability report.

P/00889/10: STEEPLE CLAYDON, WHITWELL ROAD:

**it was resolved:**

that the Town Council sees no reason to oppose this application.

P/00775/10: LAND ADJOINING 1 SUSSEX VILLAS

**it was resolved:**

that in view of the concerns about the stability of the site and the lack of congruence of its design with the surrounding area the Planning Committee be asked to visit the site prior to decision on the application.

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#### 137/10 SEASIDER AND DESTINATION VENTNOR

- a) The Mayor introduced the recently circulated prospectus for the Seaside initiative

**It was unanimously resolved:**

that Ventnor Town Council seeks clarification about the proposals from Tourism South East before engaging with the initiative.

- b) The Mayor explained that the launch of Destination Ventnor would take place in the autumn as the numbers of Town Councillors increased.
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### 138/10 MAYORAL CHAINS

The Mayor explained the work that had been assessed as necessary to restore the Mayoral Chain at a cost of £280 plus 23p per character for engraving the names of the last two years' Mayors.

**It was resolved:**

that the £280 expenditure plus the costs of the additional engraving be approved.

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### 139/10 MILITARY ROAD

- a) Councillor Chris Bonney introduced this item, describing the recent involvement of the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils (IWALC) in the campaign to preserve the Military Road and the resulting discussion between IWALC and the Isle of Wight Council's Highways Service.
  - b) The presentation to that meeting by Head of Service Peter Hayward to that meeting had been made available on the IWALC website.
  - c) Councillor Bonney stated his view that the Isle of Wight Council would not pursue any other option than the closure of the Military Road.
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### 140/10 SEASIDE SMELLS

- a) Councillor Chris Welsford introduced the item stating his disappointment that commitments made by others to resolve the issue had not been met.
  - b) Discussions were now taken place between the involved organisations but Councillor Welsford stressed that responsibility rested absolutely with the Isle of Wight Council.
  - c) Councillor Harry Rees reported on his discussions with various parties, stating that the necessary funding would be difficult to secure from the Isle of Wight Council. He went on to identify the possibility of securing European Funding for a remedial project and said that a funding bid would now be developed.
  - d) Councillor Chris Welsford stressed the importance of immediate action to resolve the issue for this season and said that he hoped a decision would be made by the end of next week.
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### 141/10 CLERK'S REPORT

- a) The Town Clerk reported that he and the Mayor had met with Stewart Blackmore and the Chair of Ventnor Golf Club for an informal discussion of their proposal to commit the income from one of their three planned wind turbines to a charitable trust for the benefit of Ventnor organisations including the Winter Gardens.
  - b) He further reported that he and Councillor Chris Welsford had met with the Isle of Wight Council's John Metcalfe for a discussion of the Management Agreement and future proposals for the ownership and management of the facility.
  - c) The balance of the Coors Loan as at 31 March 2010 stood at £19,025 and is being repaid at the rate of £278.27 a month.
  - d) In progressing the possible appointment of a Solicitor to the Town Council, the Town Clerk reported that he had arranged an informal discussion for 20 July with an Island company with mainland links.
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### 142/10 CENTRAL HOTEL

- a) Councillor Chris Welsford introduced the item, reporting on his discussions with the owners around its Grade II listing and the consequent high costs of renovation work.
  - b) The owners want to explore the option of delisting and have asked if the Town Council's support would be available for that process.
  - c) The Mayor proposed that she and other interested members arrange to visit the Hotel with
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a report back to the next meeting with the Town Clerk to write to the Historical Society to ask their views on the matter

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#### 143/10 COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

- a) The Mayor invited County Councillor Susan Scoccia to report. She said that she had been concentrating on Upper Ventnor distributing newsletters and discussing with residents, in particular about the possibility of introducing a one-way system to protect the school.
  - b) She reported on her discussions with the residents of St Albans Terrace about the problems with the new refuse collection arrangements that were now resolved.
  - c) Concerns about future proposals for the Ventnor Botanic Gardens had also been reported to her leading to her discussion with the Strategic Manager.
  - d) She went on to say that the ATM had been discussed at a recent meeting of planning and other interested services with constructive outcomes.
  - e) County Councillor Chris Welsford said that a solution appeared to have been reached in respect of the dilapidated Tesco building. Tesco management have agreed to check for loose slates, repaint the front of the building and ensure its integrity by the end of August. They will also stabilise the hoardings at the back of the building and remove vegetation and scaffolding.
  - f) Councillor Harry Rees reported on the failure to locate the scaffolding in accordance with legal requirements and the failure to provide an alternative walkway for pedestrians.
  - g) Councillor Chris Welsford also reported that the structural survey for the new ATM had been completed and a report was now expected very soon on the feasibility of installing this important additional facility for residents and visitors.
  - h) Councillor Harry Rees raised the subject of the recent letter to all Clerks about the proposals from the Coalition Government for changing the size and numbers of constituencies and the likely impact on the Isle of Wight and asking that the Town Council support the Isle of Wight MP's objections to any change in the arrangements for the Island.
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#### 144/10 VENUES AND TIMES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

- a) Councillor George spoke to a report for this meeting asking that in view of the busy summer programme and democratic benefits consideration be given to holding Town Council Meetings in venues within Bonchurch, Lowtherville and St Lawrence wards.
  - b) After discussion:  
**it was resolved on the casting vote of the Chair:**  
to continue to meet at the Winter Gardens unless the Theatre was required for a summer programme event.
  - c) It was also decided to retain the start time of 7pm for full Town Council meetings.
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#### PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Mayor re-opened the Public Forum
  - b) A member of the public said she was disappointed by the decision not to rotate the venues for meetings. The Mayor said the decision could be revisited in the future.
  - c) Another member commented that it would be worth checking the claims of the Seaside initiative.
  - d) Councillor Susan Scoccia reminded the meeting that the Town Council's reserves had fallen significantly during the financial year 2009/10 and asked if the Town Council had received any response from the Audit Commission about that position.  
The meeting closed at 9pm.
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SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE

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