



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

WINTER GARDENS

7PM

2 AUGUST 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors: Debby Robinson (Mayor), Chris Bonney, David George, Harry Rees, Gillian Jenner

ITEM SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

The Mayor opened the Public Forum with 2 members of the public present.

There were no contributions to the Public Forum.

The Meeting commenced at 7.04pm.

145/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Chris Welsford and Councillor Steve Stubbings.

146/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at this point.

It was noted that Councillor Harry Rees has resigned as Chair of the Ventnor Business Association.

128/10 PLANNING MATTERS

a) P/00851/10: 75 LEESON ROAD, CONVERSION OF ROOF SPACE

The Mayor said that there was virtually no visibility from the road and she could see no reason for it to be opposed.

It was unanimously resolved:

that there is no reason to object to this application

b) P/01042/10: STEEPLE CLAYTON, TWO STORY SIDE EXTENSION

The Mayor introduced the application. Several members commented that it was an improvement on the present appearance and entirely in character with the area

It was unanimously resolved:

that there is no reason to object to this application

c) P/00897/10: 1 CHURCH STREET, CHANGE OF USE TO ESTATE AGENCY

Councillor Harry Rees commented that although the central retail area included the shop in question there were reasons to be concerned about yet another Estate Agency and the consequent loss of another retail element. He proposed that the Town Council support a balanced retail community and that this application be resisted on the grounds of a move in the wrong direction.

The Mayor supported this approach, stating that the application would further unbalance an already out of balance retail offer and that the building that is the subject of the application is potentially attractive both in its own right and as a retail outlet.

Other members expressed similar concerns on the same grounds.

It was unanimously resolved:

- a) extreme disquiet be expressed to the Planning Authority in view of the significant further reduction in the range and attractiveness of the Town's of retail outlets that

is so crucial to its economic performance, the businesses of existing shopkeepers and its already reduced footfall;

- b) the Town already has five Estate Agencies and needs to protect and develop character retail outlets attractive to both residents and visitors;
- c) the building itself is in a key location for the Town and its retail offer and should be retained as part of it;
- d) the Town Council therefore asks the Planning Authority to refuse the application on these grounds and requests the Town's County Councillors to make representations on the Town Council's behalf to the Planning Authority.

129/10 LE VENESS APPEAL UPDATE

- a) The Mayor introduced this item, informing the meeting that after contact with Dennis Russell of the Campaign for Rural England she had received a copy of his case for supporting condition 2 that the County Council had imposed on the application, which she read out.
- b) The Mayor asked for support for her to speak at the Public Enquiry on the basis of that case in order to represent the view of the Town Council and local residents that the County Council has its full support in its actions in respect of the Appeal

PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Mayor re-opened the Public Forum
- b) A member of the public expressed concern at the potential loss of a significant building and business in the Town

The meeting closed at 7.24pm.

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR	DATE
