



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

WINTER GARDENS

7PM

9 AUGUST 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 24 members of the public present.

- a) A member of the public asked about applications for grants and the Mayor responded that any group wanting to apply for a grant should write to the Town Clerk as a Grants Committee would be formed in October to assess applications.
- b) County Councillor Susan Scoccia asked that two inaccuracies in the references to her report to the July meeting be corrected.
- c) Another questioner asked if the Winter Gardens was soon to have a Cash Machine available and was assured that this would be confirmed in the later Agenda item on the Winter Gardens. .
- d) The meeting began at 7.07pm

145/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Chris Welsford.

146/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Harry Rees stated that he was still formally Chair of the Ventnor Business Association until his resignation for the role was accepted by their next meeting and he remained Chair of Ventnor Social Club.

147/10 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the Town Council meetings of 12 July and 2 August 2010 were considered.

It was unanimously resolved:

that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 12 July be agreed as an accurate record of the business of that meeting and be signed accordingly by the Mayor.

It was unanimously resolved by those present at the meeting:

that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 2 August be agreed as an accurate record of the business of that meeting and be signed accordingly by the Mayor.

148/10 FINANCE

- a) The Finance report for this meeting had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 July 2010 and a list of payments made during July 2010.
- b) An accompanying paper set out the Precept related expenditure in the first four months of the current financial year.

After the Town Clerk had explained the background to the two exceptional items of expenditure identified in the Finance Report:

it was unanimously resolved:

that the two items of expenditure be formally approved.

149/10 WINTER GARDENS REPORT

- a) The Town Clerk introduced his report on the Winter Gardens on its work during the past month with information on July trading, staff developments and the summer programme.
- b) He also reported that the Photocopier/Printer authorised by the June meeting is now installed in the Town Clerk's office.
- c) An important development was the installation of an ATM Cash Machine in the Winter Gardens, in operation from Wednesday 11 August, as a public service given the severely limited access to cash facing both residents and visitors.
- d) In his role as General Manager, the Town Clerk asked for Town Council approval of the upgrading of the Security Alarm system to provide personal alarms for staff handling the cash transfers at a cost of £670.

It was unanimously resolved:

that the expenditure be approved.

- e) In a discussion of the intention to install Wi-Fi access throughout the building, Council Chris Bonney said that he expected to be able to identify an appropriate service provider and ensure the necessary compliance with legislation for public Wi-Fi over the next few weeks.
- f) The recently launched competition for images suitable for use as banners for the new web site had produced a range of choices and Councillor Steve Stubbings said that he would circulate them to all Members to indicate their preferences.

150/10 WINTER GARDENS EXHIBITION & CONSULTATION

- a) Councillor Gillian Jenner introduced the item, explaining that it is the start of a consultation process with the community about the future of the Winter Gardens intended to attract as wide a participation as possible.
- b) The exhibition would be open from 10 to 19 September, taking people through the chronological development of the Winter Gardens through displays in the Foyer through the stairs to the Chancellor Room. She said that the Town Council was working closely with the Historical Society to identify items illustrating the development of the Winter Gardens since its opening.
- c) Feedback forms inviting residents to record their hopes and expectations for the future of the facility would be widely available and carefully collated.
- d) The Exhibition and Consultation will open with a launch event on the evening of 10 September.

It was unanimously resolved:

that the proposals for this first stage in the consultation process as set out in the briefing paper prepared by Councillors Gillian Jenner and David George be adopted.

151/10 APPOINTMENT OF TOWN COUNCIL SOLICITOR

The Town Clerk introduced his report in response to minute 119/10 of the Town Council meeting of 14 June and its recommendation Glanvilles be appointed as the Town Council's Solicitor. He confirmed in response to a question from Councillor Harry Rees that no retention fee was involved.

It was resolved:

That Glanvilles be appointed as the Town Council's provider of legal services.

152/10 ISLE OF WIGHT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (IWALC)

- a) Councillor Chris Bonney reported on a number of matters discussed within IWALC recently.
- b) The International Island Games next year with teams from around the world to be held on

- the Island next year offered an opportunity for Ventnor's accommodation providers. He hoped that the Town Council and Ventnor would find ways of engaging with the Games.
- c) The restructure of the Isle of Wight Council's Neighbourhoods & Environment Officer service should not make much difference to Ventnor.
 - d) Representation on the Island Waste Services Community Advisory Group has been invited.
 - e) IWALC have committed to support the One Island – One MP campaign.
 - f) The Isle of Wight Council is currently conducting a Parish Boundary Review.
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154/10 PLANNING MATTERS

P/00960/10: 1 SPRING HILL: CHANGE OF USE TO TATTOO STUDIO

Councillor Gillian Jenner commented that the same arguments the Town Council developed at its last meeting in connection with the loss of retail outlets on the High Street applied to this application also.

Councillor Harry Rees said that as part of his lead role with the Town Plan he was meeting with representatives of Ventnor Economic Partnership and remapping of the A1 retail area would be on their agenda. Meanwhile, one tattoo business in the Town is enough particularly when the plans of the new one

it was resolved:

that the Town Council express its concern about the increasing out-of-balance in the Town's retail offer and the application be opposed on the grounds that there is already one tattoo shop in the retail area.

P/00966/10: VENTNOR HOLIDAY VILLAS: TWO HOLIDAY VILLAS

Councillor Debby Robinson introduced this item saying that she is concerned that the proposed buildings look more like sheds rather than Villas.

it was resolved:

that the Town Council asks the Planning Authority to ensure that the existing conditions be retained and to look for more congruent design on the new provision and that decisions are postponed until more adequate design material is available.

P/00996/10: BONCHURCH MANOR: CONTINUED USE AS RESIDENTIAL

Councillor David George said that he felt that objection to this would be unreasonable as it is the owner's home and is in serious need of repair

it was resolved:

that the application be supported

P/01090/10: BETWEEN 11 & 17 NORTH STREET: DETACHED HOUSE

Councillor Debby Robinson said that although it is a compact site the design appears to be congruent with the street scene. Councillor Gillian Jenner raised concerns about the already problematic parking in the area being added to by the development.

it was resolved:

that the application be not objected to but that the Planning Authority be asked to consider the local parking issues.

P/01133/10: BONIEGA HUNTS ROAD: OPEN FRONTED CAR PORT

Councillor Debby Robinson commented on the high quality of the supplied photography.

it was resolved:

that there is no reason for objection to this application.

155/10 LOCAL RETAIL OPPORTUNITIES

- a) Councillor Harry Rees said that increasing concerns about the breadth and balance of the town's retail offer would be best addressed through the review of the Town Plan.
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- b) Councillor Debby Robinson suggested that owners or renters of the empty shops be asked if they would allow their window spaces be available to local artists and others wishing to display suitable materials in exchange of shop front cleaning.

It was unanimously resolved:

that this proposal be implemented by writing to the shop owners.

156/10 ADULT FITNESS AREA

- a) Stephanie Toogood was invited to address the meeting on fitness services and their importance to physical and social health particularly for people in Ventnor with restricted access to related facilities..
- b) She felt that children's needs are now well catered for with the additional provision of the Sea Breeze Play Area and that at the Botanic Gardens. Finding a suitable site to install fitness equipment suitable for older people as illustrated in the brochures she had supplied councillors with for this meeting is the next priority.
- c) Councillor Steve Stubbings welcomed the proposal as did other members and all joined in thanking Stephanie for bringing it to the Council's attention.

It was resolved:

that the Town Council supports the initiative and asks Ventnor Enhancement Fund if they might consider assisting its development.

153/1 No 16 Bus ROUTE

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- a) Stuart George was invited to address the meeting about changes to local bus services.
- b) He said that the No 16 Bus is actually two bus services bolted together, the Ventnor to Shanklin Rail Bus and the St Lawrence to Ventnor route.
- c) The No 16 will be withdrawn from 16 September. Consequently there will no longer any connection with Shanklin railway station available to Ventnor residents and there would also be a reduction from 18 to 5 buses a day from St Lawrence to Ventnor, greater pressure on car parks as well as a doubling of the fare from Ventnor to Shanklin from £3.50 to £7.
- d) He said there were three options available to the Town Council:
- o do nothing;
 - o try to persuade the Isle of Wight Council to reconsider their position; and
 - o find another operator: a taxi or bus firm with spare vehicle.
- e) One problem is that people think the service is being withdrawn because it's losing money, and that is not the case.
- f) Thanks were expressed to Stuart George for bringing this important matter so effectively to the Town Council's attention.
- g) Councillor Steve Stubbings suggested that a working group be established to explore the matter further with Stuart George.

It was unanimously resolved:

- i) the Town Council appoint a working group to join with Stuart George to take this issue forward of Councillors David George, Debby Robinson, Chris Bonney, Steve Stubbings and Stuart George;
- ii) the Cabinet Member the Isle of Wight Council be written to and asked to support the retention or replacement of a service so vital to Ventnor's connectivity; and
- iii) Wight Buses be written to be asked to postpone the withdrawal of the service for three months pending consultation with the Town Council given that its implementation will further isolate Ventnor, its businesses and communities.
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It was unanimously resolved:

Justification for the decisions on fare levels be sought from the Wight Buses and the Isle of Wight Council

157/10 ONE ISLAND CAMPAIGN

- a) Councillor Harry Rees introduced this item.
 - b) He explained that the Boundary Commission had considered the option of two MPs in 2002 for the Island and decided against it. He identified the dangers he felt the revived proposal represented to the Island's independence, coherence and access to European funding
 - c) Councillor Steve Stubbings said that although he personally wasn't opposed to supporting the campaign he wasn't sure that it was the Town Council's role to engage directly in a campaign of this nature and that was supported by other members.
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158/10 MEMORIAL BENCH

- a) Councillor David George introduced the proposal that the long-term service of Councillor Robin Mew be marked by the provision of a Memorial Bench subject to his wife's agreement.
- b) This was support by all other members.

It was resolved:

that a memorial bench commemorating Councillor Robin Mew's 34 years of service to Ventnor be installed subject to the agreement of his wife.

159/10 DRAFT SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2

- a) Councillor David George declared a personal interest in this item.
- b) Councillor Chris Bonney introduced this item stating that it is a refinement of the Plan published initially in 1997 as a Strategic document for the management of the coastline
- c) He identified a number of issues addressed in the Plan, encouraging members to look at the more detailed map available online. A travelling Public Exhibition in a range of sites that don't include the South and West of the Island while the plan can be viewed at the Coastal Centre by appointment by phoning 857220 or on line at www.coastalwight.gov.uk which also provides the opportunity to comment.
- d) He stressed the importance of the decisions that are about to be made as they will affect the economic future of Ventnor very significantly.

It was resolved:

that this be included on the Agenda of the September meeting of the Town Council and that every effort be made to publish the links and access points to the Plan.

PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Mayor re-opened the Public Forum
 - b) A member of the public asked for assurance that the Winter Gardens Exhibition and Consultation was the first stage of a process and that assurance was given.
 - c) Another member commented that the Historical Society had asked owners of empty shops for display space and had no response.
- The meeting closed at 9pm.
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SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE

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