



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

WINTER GARDENS

7PM

13 SEPTEMBER JULY 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors: Debby Robinson (Mayor), Chris Bonney, David George, Steve Stubbings, Gillian Jenner.

ITEM SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

The Mayor opened the Public Forum with 15 members of the public present.

- a) A member of the public congratulated the Town Council on the exhibition on the Winter Gardens and asked about the costs of the Summer Programme. The Town Clerk responded that the programme had fallen short of breakeven but had provided valuable learning from the experiment it had always been understood as.
- b) Another member asked about developments on two currently closed footpaths. The Mayor declared a personal interest on this matter and passed responsibility for the response to the Deputy Mayor. Councillor Chris Bonney read a response from Councillor Chris Welsford following his discussion of the matter with the County Council. Further information on closed footpaths will be on the agenda for the October meeting.
- c) In response to a question about access points for the feedback leaflets on this stage of the Consultation, Councillor Gillian Jenner outlined plans for access points throughout the town and the prize draw that was in place to encourage greater participation.
- d) The meeting began at 7.10pm.

166/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Chris Welsford and Harry Rees.

167/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at this point.

The Major formally welcomed Councillor Jason Mack to his first meeting.

168/10 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the Town Council meetings of 9 August and 31 August 2010 were considered.

Councillor Bonney reminded the meeting of a commitment to include a discussion of the Shoreline Management Plan on the Agenda for this meeting and due to its omission and its significance for Ventnor, the Mayor and Town Clerk agreed that Councillor Bonney could update the meeting at this point.

Councillor David George declared a personal interest in this discussion.

Councillor Chris Bonney pointed out that consultations on the Draft Shoreline Management Plan were not available in Ventnor as they were in other main population centres on the Island other than by appointment at the Coastal Centre.

He expressed the view that this was significant for the future of the Military Road and both were so crucial for the Town's future that it was vital for a consultation opportunity to be made available in it. He suggested that the Town Council offer to host the opportunity at no cost to the Isle of Wight Council.

Councillor Steve Stubbings pointed out that the locations for the current consultations were in places that would benefit from the current plan.

It was resolved:

That the availability of information on the Shoreline Management Plan is not commensurate with the needs of the people of Ventnor the Isle of Wight Council be formally requested to provide a local consultation opportunity on it.

It was unanimously resolved by those present at the meeting:

that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 9 August 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 31 August be agreed as an accurate record of the business of that meeting and be signed accordingly by the Mayor.

169/10 FIRE SERVICE MODERNISATION

- a) Matt Ford provided a presentation to update the Town Council and members of the public on progress with the Fire Service Modernisation.
 - b) He pointed out that the current location of Ventnor's Fire Station was unsuitable and a new site has been chosen at the top of the hill on the Industrial Estate with a two storey building. It is hoped that building would commence in mid-2011 with opening in late 2011 or early 2012.
 - c) A wireless traffic lights system providing egress from the Estate would be in place to ensure safety.
 - d) The remainder of the presentation provided matching information for the other Fire Station locations on the Island, giving details of developments at both Ryde and Newport.
 - e) The Mayor thanked Matt Ford and his colleague for the presentation and answering questions on it.
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170/10 FINANCE

- a) The Finance report for this meeting had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 August 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.
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171/10 WINTER GARDENS REPORT

- a) The Town Clerk introduced his report on the Winter Gardens on its work during the past month with information on August trading, staff developments, summer programme and new arrangements for future events and entertainments programming.
 - b) It was noted that the engagement of an Entertainments Manager had come to an end by mutual consent on 9 September and that the Town Council meeting of 31 August had resolved to appoint a PA to the Town Clerk with an element of the post focusing on the events and entertainments programme.
 - c) The development of an appropriate programme will be promoted by an advisory group consisting of two Town Councillors, two Winter Gardens' Managers convened by the Town Clerk.
 - d) It was reported that the Cash Machine is now working routinely with clear staff practices and enhanced security.
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172/10 WINTER GARDENS EXHIBITION & CONSULTATION

- a) Councillor Gillian Jenner reported on the arrangements for the Exhibition, reminding the meeting that it runs until Sunday 19 September and that attractive prizes are linked to the draw into which all will be entered who provided their contact details with completed
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feedback forms.

- b) Councillor David George expressed the Town Council's gratitude to the Ventnor History Society for the provision of the majority of the items in the exhibition and to the Winter Gardens staff for their committed support the exhibition.
 - c) He went on to draw attention to the Koo Stark photographic exhibition in the Balmoral Room and his hope that this would be the first of serial exhibitions in this most suitable space. He also thanked Dimbola, the photographic museum in West Wight for providing the exhibition.
 - d) Councillor Chris Bonney said that he was pleased to see so many people visiting the exhibition on Sunday and asked that it be more clearly signposted.
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173/10 ARTS IN EMPTY SPACES

- a) Lauren Fry and Steve Sales were introduced to the meeting by the Mayor as Cuckoo, an enterprise developing empty spaces for the exhibition of arts materials and products.
- b) Lauren made the case for the contribution that access to art can make to community engagement and enjoyment as well as the opportunity it offers artists to show their work.
- c) They proposed that more empty spaces in Ventnor could be explored and exploited for these purposes. Lauren said that they had worked with a significant number of street artists on the Island who would also be interested in working here.
- d) Their handouts provided more information about Cuckoo and areas for development

It was resolved:

that the project be supported and its development be included in the work of the Programme Group.

174/10 PROCESS DESIGN WORKING GROUP

- a) Councillor Chris Bonney introduced suggestions for greater co-ordination of the Town Council's work using a flow chart as an example. He proposed the establishment of a working group to develop the range of required processes.
- b) Councillor Steve Stubbings agreed that clear delegation of leadership in specified areas of activity would be sensible with clear processes for that delegation.
- c) The Mayor reminded the meeting that Town Councillors work essentially in Wards as their priority with additional corporate responsibilities for the work of the whole Council.

It was resolved:

That a working group be established to design processes to ensure the most effective working of the Town Council with Councillors Chris Bonney, Gillian Jenner and Jason Mack as its members.

176/10 OUTDOOR FITNESS AREA

- a) Councillor Gillian Jenner updated the meeting on work done since the August meeting in conjunction with Ventnor Enhancement Fund (VEF) on a possible site for an Outdoor Fitness Area.
- b) The outcome has been agreement with the Isle of Wight Council on the suitability of the former play area at the far end of Ventnor Park subject to public consultation and the VEF is taking steps to access funding.
- c) Councillor David George explored the cost of yearly maintenance that appeared likely to cost £1,000 annually.

It was unanimously resolved:

that the project continue to be supported and that the Parks Department be asked formally about the basis on which it might make the land available to the Town Council.

177/10 No 16 Bus Route

- a) Councillor Steve Stubbings reported as the convenor of the Working Group on this important service on its initial meeting stating that he is still not sure that the service Southern Vectis is proposing is an adequate replacement and the service to the west of Ventnor is unacceptable.
 - b) Councillor David George stated that Councillor Chris Welsford was attending this evening a meeting on Community Transport at the IW Rural Community Council.
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178/10 PLANNING APPLICATION CONSULTATION

After discussion of the Planning Service's proposal

It was resolved:

That a clear and firm objection to the proposal to end the circulation of planning documentation that could not be properly viewed on the web site or printed by Town and Parish Council be registered with the Planning Service.

178/10 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a) P/00936/10: [17 ZIG ZAG ROAD, REPLACEMENT PERMISSION](#)

The Mayor said that this application looked liked to be an improvement of the present property and was in any event a replace of any already approved application.

It was resolved:

that the Town Council has no objection to this proposal.

- b) P/01119/10: [68 OCEAN VIEW ROAD, REPLACEMENT PERMISSION](#)

The Mayor stated that this application made no provision for parking in already over-parked area and was a substantial building at the top of a hill. She recommended that the application be objected to on those grounds.

It was resolved:

That the Town Council registers an objection to this application

- c) P/01197/10: [THE COACH HOUSE, BONCHURCH MANOR](#)

The Mayor said she saw no problem with the application given that it represented an improvement on the existing building. Councillor Chris Bonney however was concerned that the proposed materials were not appropriate for a Conservation area

It was resolved:

That the Town Council has no objection to this proposal

- d) P/01072/10: [SOUTHERN VECTIS, 22 PIER STREET](#)

It was resolved:

that the Town Council cannot comment on this application as the documentation is not available.

- e) P/01187/10: [EVERSLEY HOTEL, PARK AVENUE](#)

It was resolved:

That the Town Council has no objection to this proposal.

- f) P/01142/10: [12 CASTLE COURT](#)

It was resolved:

That the Town Council has no objection to this proposal.

- g) P/00853/10: [10 SOUTH STREET](#)

Councillor Gillian Jenner reported that the poor scanning of the plans caused problems for on-line assessment. The Mayor commented that it looked a rather large extension.

It was resolved:

That no decision could be made on the basis of the quality of the documentation.

h) P/01247/10: [LAND ADJACENT 2 PELHAM ROAD](#)

Councillor Bonney stated that there was seriously insufficient information supplied with the application

It was resolved:

that the Town Council register an objection to this application.

PUBLIC FORUM

The Mayor re-opened the Public Forum and no questions or comments were forthcoming.

179/10 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

In view of the confidential nature of the following item:

It was resolved under the Public Bodies Admissions to Meetings (1960) Act: to exclude the Public and Press whilst item 15 is under discussion as it is of a confidential nature.

180/10 DESTINATION VENTNOR TITLE

The Mayor introduced this item, questioning whether the designation Destination Ventnor was the best one and, if so, should the relevant Domain Names be registered.

It was resolved:

that the domain names destinationventnor.com, .co.uk and .org be registered by Councillor Chris Bonney.

The Meeting closed at 8.50pm

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE
