



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

WINTER GARDENS

7PM

11 OCTOBER 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors: Debby Robinson (Mayor), Chris Bonney, David George, Steve Stubbings, Gillian Jenner, Harry Rees, Jason Mack, James Toogood

ITEM SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

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

- a) County Councillor Susan Scoccia asked when the Winter Gardens accounting information will be available. The Town Clerk responded that he had been informed by the previous Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) that as Winter Gardens trading was commercially sensitive it would remain confidential.
- b) A member of the public asked when progress would be made on the matter of closed footpaths and Councillor Chris Bonney apologised for the delay in addressing the concerns.
- c) The Town Council was also asked if it had had any involvement with the concerns about the Ventnor Botanic Gardens and the Mayor responded that the Friends of the Botanic Gardens were holding a meeting at the Winter Gardens next Monday evening.
- d) A member of the public expressed concern about planning application p/01389/10, stating that in his view the proposed development was within the applicant's garden rather than adjacent to it as stated.
- e) An experienced recycling officer in the audience raised the possibility of earlier intervention in respect of the rotting seaweed that causes such significant problems for the Town given the possibility of composting then being possible. Councillor Chris Bonney said that he was currently in useful conversations on this matter and that there would be a future report on it.
- f) The Mayor was invited to perform the prize draw based on the returned Feedback Forms from the consultation and duly announced the winners of the three prizes.
- g) The meeting began at 7.15pm.

181/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Chris Welsford.

182/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Chris Bonney and Gillian Jenner declared personal and prejudicial interests in Agenda items 13a and 13b.

Councillor Harry Rees declared an interest as the Chair of the Ventnor Social Club

The Mayor formally welcomed Councillor James Toogood to his first meeting.

183/10 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Town Council meeting of 13 September 2010 were considered.

It was unanimously resolved by those present at the meeting:

that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 13 September be agreed as an accurate record of the business of that meeting and be signed accordingly by the Mayor.

184/10 FINANCE

- a) The Finance report for this meeting had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 30 September 2010 and a list of payments made during September 2010.
 - b) An accompanying paper set out the Precept related expenditure in the first six months of the current financial year.
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185/10 WINTER GARDENS REPORT

- a) The Town Clerk introduced his report on the Winter Gardens' work during the past month with information on September sales, staff developments, autumn programme, recent maintenance and ATM use.
 - b) It was noted that recent maintenance had included the removal of the balcony railings following the identification of them as a Health and Safety hazard. The work was commissioned and funded by the Isle of Wight Council.
 - c) The development of the Exhibition space in the Balmoral room was welcomed with the information that three further exhibitions are now in line to follow the current one of Koo Stark photography.
 - d) Councillor Gillian Jenner provided initial feedback on the recent Winter Gardens Exhibition and the associated consultation on the use of the facility. The Feedback forms had been widely distributed. Councillor Jenner thanked the provider of the three prizes for the related Draw.
 - e) Of the 81 returned forms many had provided full and significant responses that would be analysed in due course. She agreed that additional forms could still be received for a further week.
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186/10 GREEN TOWNS

- a) Samantha Buck from Natural Enterprise was invited by the Mayor to outline the Green Towns initiative.
- b) She explained that the project was in its pilot year with three Island Towns and that it was now looking to take on a further seven. Although there is no funding available, she pointed out that Green Town classification would be an advantage in accessing external funding sources as well as engaging the community in securing the status.
- c) Joining the project requires the completion of an Expression of Interest form and the setting up of a Steering Group to develop an Action Plan.

It was unanimously resolved:

that the Expression of Interest Form be completed.

187/10 ISLAND WASTE MEETING

- a) Councillor Debby Robinson provided feedback on her attendance at the latest meeting of the Island Waste Community Advisory Group on 23 September 2010.
 - b) She said that the Gas Plant had been closed since May due to unacceptable emissions with all its input since having to go into landfill and that this will continue until the Plant is restored.
 - c) The Lyn Bottom landfill only has 6.5 years life left and indentifying an alternative site is a priority.
 - d) The new kerb-side collection system is still causing problems with 1,500 requests for Assisted Collections.
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188/10 CARDBOARD RECYCLING

- a) Councillor Gillian Jenner introduced this item, referring to an offer from a Newport firm to
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supply Cardboard recycling free of charge including the provision of a storage bin for flat-packed items of 6m x 2.5m size and smaller ones if required. They then sell the cardboard to a Mainland company for recycling into paper and cardboard.

- b) Councillor Jenner said that to engage with this scheme required the identification of a suitable site accessible by the public and collection and delivery vehicles. She also identified the potential economic benefit to small local businesses that can be charged up to £30 a week for cardboard collection.
- c) The relative inaccessibility for lorries and shortage of parking space at the Winter Gardens were identified and the possibility of more central locations were urged.

It was unanimously resolved:

that the principle of the offer be adopted alongside investigation of potential sites and an invitation to the company to meet with us; and that

the Co-op be asked if they have a local recycling scheme in place that could be extended.

189/10 SEAWEED ISSUE

- a) In the absence of Councillor Chris Welsford, Councillor Bonney provided more details of the facility for withdrawing the seaweed for dumping further out to sea. He commented that the substantial bulk of the material made the exercise extremely difficult.
 - b) Possibilities for draining the water to lighten and lessen the load were being explored and he said that assistance from others with experience of this would be welcome.
 - c) Councillor Harry Rees reminded the meeting that legal responsibility for removing the seaweed lay with the Isle of Wight Council.
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190/10 DRAFT SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2

- a) Councillor Chris Bonney introduced the item explaining that the plan was looking ahead for 100 years of coastline management and indicated that there would be no future coastline management from Ventnor to Totland for the next 100 years. In that context, the failure to consult properly with Ventnor is completely unacceptable, he said.
- b) He reported that although the consultation period ends on 23 October, it was important to provide local access to the plans for Ventnor residents. He had secured agreement for 11 of the 20 panels to be made available and would be able to print the remainder. He hoped they could be made available in the Winter Gardens foyer.

It was unanimously resolved that:

- a) the full exhibition be made available in the Winter Gardens Foyer and a small budget be available for the additional printing necessary to complete it.
 - b) the County Council be formally requested to extend the consultation period to include the responses to the Winter Gardens display of the Plan.
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191/10 COMMUNICATIONS

- a) Councillor Chris Bonney explained that the recently available Google software for shared diary facilities was now being incorporated into the Winter Gardens' offices and would be extended to Town Councillors.
- b) Councillor Debby Robinson stressed that effective communication would be improved by the adoption of the practice of read receipts. Councillor Chris Bonney responded that the function was being phased out in the corporate world.

It was resolved on the Mayor's casting vote:

that Read Receipts be responded to.

192/10 TOWN DECOR

- a) The Mayor commented on the unattractive nature of the bunting currently displayed in the
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Town pointing out that although it had been expensive at over £1,200 it was simply unsuitable, fading after short use.

- b) Councillor Harry Rees said that the bunting had been provided by a voluntary group on the basis of donation but that it was now giving a very poor impression of the Town.
 - c) The Mayor went on to comment on the arrangements for the provision of a Christmas Tree this year, stating that live trees were not practicable at the required size and recommended acquiring a cut tree at a considerable saving.
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193/10 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a) P/00700/10: MILL BAY INN

The Mayor said that this revised application failed to address the concerns expressed about the original application. She was particularly concerned that there is no revised Design Statement in spite of significant inaccuracies in the original.

Other issues range from instability of the site to traffic issues and the failure to comply with Conservation Area requirements.

Councillor Steve Stubbings stated that he agreed with Councillor David George that there were hardly perceptible, and certainly not material, changes in the revised plans that continued to be subject to the grounds on which the Isle of Wight Council had refused permission for the original application: scale, massing and height, overdominant development in a critical area, and failure to preserve or enhance this part of the Conservation Area.

It was resolved:

that the Town Council ask the Planning Authority to reject this revised application on the same grounds as the original and that the Mayor be authorised to present the Town Council's objections to the Planning Committee.

Councillor Harry Rees abstained from the vote on this resolution.

- b) P/O1389/10: LAND ADJACENT COVE COTTAGE

The Mayor confirmed the concerns raised in the Public Forum about the lack of clarity about the whether the development was adjacent or within the Cove Cottage ground

It was unanimously resolved:

That the Town Council objects to the application on the grounds that the development is likely to be part of the existing property and that the drawings are inadequate in, for example, using two different scales and not including actual dimensions.

- c) P/O1406/10: 4 ALEXANDRA GARDENS

The Mayor said she could see no objection to the proposal which will be a considerable improvement to the existing site

It was resolved:

That the Town Council has no objection to this proposal

- d) P/O1413/10: SOUTH DEEP, WOLVERTON ROAD

It was unanimously resolved:

that the Town Council request the original plans before comment can be made.

- e) P/O1306/10: MYRTLE COTTAGE, BONCHURCH SHUTE

It was unanimously resolved:

That the Town Council has no objection to this proposal.

- f) P/O1262/10: THE ORCHID HOUSE, OLD PARK ROAD

Councillor Bonney described the proposed development and commented that there were no planning grounds for objection.

It was unanimously resolved:

that the Town Council has no objection to this proposal.

It was further resolved:

that the Isle of Wight Council be asked for detailed information on why the site malfunctions on a regular basis and has done so for many years and when improvements are planned to be implemented.

194/10 ESTABLISHMENT OF A PLANNING COMMITTEE

Draft Terms of Reference for a Planning Committee of the Town Council had been previously circulated.

It was resolved:

that the Town Council establish a Planning Committee with the Terms of Reference provided for this meeting and that its members be Councillors Jim Toogood, Gillian Jenner, Jason Mack, Debby Robinson with the addition of Councillor Chris Bonney for one year.

PUBLIC FORUM

The Mayor re-opened the Public Forum and a member of the public offered assistance and advice on environmental issues.

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.

The Meeting closed at 8.55pm

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR	DATE
