



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

EARLY YEARS CENTRE

7PM

9 MAY 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors: Debby Robinson (Mayor), David George, Steve Stubbings, Carol Jones, James Toogood, Jim Morgan.

ITEM SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

The Mayor opened the Public Forum with 9 members of the public present. County Councillor Susan Scoccia was also present.

- a) A member of the public commented that not enough publicity was given by the Isle of Wight Council to the consultation on waste collection. The Mayor responded that she had attended the Community Advisory Committee recently and would report later on the Agenda.
- b) A question was asked about the proposals for the Winter Gardens during the period up to the proposed opening at Easter 2012. Councillor Steve Stubbings responded that the major building works that were planned would require the building to remain closed.
- c) Disappointment was expressed at the lack of action on dog fouling by the Environment Service. The Mayor confirmed that the Town Council intended to follow up on the discussion with the Senior Environment Officer at the last meeting.

61/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Jason Mack and Harry Rees.

62/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Jim Toogood declared a personal interest in Agenda item 7.

63/11 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Town Council meeting of 11 April 2011 were considered.

It was unanimously resolved:

that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 11 April 2011 be agreed as an accurate record of the business of that meeting and be signed accordingly by the Mayor.

64/11 FINANCE

- a) The Finance report for this meeting had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 30 April 2011 and a list of payments made during April 2011.
- b) An accompanying paper set out the related expenditure in relation to the Budget lines for the year to 9 May 2011.
- c) The report included comments on the major items of expenditure, particularly those relating to the closure of the Winter Gardens.

65/11 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

- a) The Town Clerk's report for this meeting had been previously circulated to Members and included information on the process for the selection of a preferred bidder for the Winter Gardens, the present situation in respect of the remaining vacancies on the Town Council and an update on repairs to the Clock on the Esplanade.

- b) The Town Clerk added that the switching off of the street light decorations had now been effected.
 - c) It was noted that Councillor Carol Jones had volunteered to be Ventnor Town Council's representative on the group exploring the possibility of a local Community Transport Scheme.
-

66/11 BEACH SAFETY

- a) The Town Clerk reported on discussions in respect of legal risks and insurance requirements for the Town Council in accessing the funding available from the Isle of Wight Council.
- b) Councillor Jim Toogood reported on the additional fundraising he had been able to achieve and proposed the employment of a First Aider for 6 days a week from 10am - 4 pm

It was unanimously resolved:

that the funding from the Isle of Wight Council be accessed and deployed to employ a first aider based in the First Aid Point (previously the Lifeguard Hut) to cover the hours of 10am – 4pm from 1 June to 30 September six days a week subject to confirmation from our legal advisors.

67/11 ADULT FITNESS AREA

A report by the Town Clerk updating members on the current situation of the project had been previously circulated to Members

it was unanimously resolved:

that the Town Council take on responsibility for the Project as its Accountable Body and that a licence agreement be sought from the Isle of Wight Council in respect of the site.

68/11 MEMORIAL BENCHES

In the absence of Councillor Jason Mack the Mayor asked that this item be carried forward to the June meeting.

69/11 PARKING IN ALPINE ROAD

- a) The Mayor introduced this item referring to a request from a resident for a change to the parking permissions in Alpine Road.
- b) Ward Councillor Susan Scoccia was given permission by the Mayor to inform the meeting that all parking restrictions in Ventnor are to be reviewed this autumn

it was resolved:

that the Town Clerk be asked to write to the Isle of Wight Council to ask that the parking restrictions on Alpine Road apply on an all-year basis.

70/11 PADDLING POOL

- a) The Mayor introduced this item, pointing out that the current opening hours for the Children's Paddling Pool did not fit with holiday patterns.
 - b) The Town Clerk was asked to request information about the cost of extending the period for a further month.
-

71/11 DOGS ON BEACHES

- a) The Mayor introduced this item, recommending that the exclusion of dogs from the beach be brought forward to 1 February.
 - b) Councillor Steve Stubbings argued that it was not appropriate to penalise all dog-owners due to the irresponsible behaviour of some. Councillor David George supported this, adding that enforcement was the responsibility of the Environment Service.
 - c) Councillor Jim Toogood stated that the importance of protecting the use of the beach particularly by children was the priority. Councillor Jim Morgan supported this, adding that
-
-

it was important to provide a break between the exclusion of dogs and significant use of the beach.

It was resolved:

that the Town Council request the Isle of Wight Council to extend the period for the exclusion of dogs from the beach to that of 1 March to 31 October.

72/11 GREEN TOWN

- a) Councillor David George reported on progress with the Green Town project, stating that Ventnor was now registered as one of the Island's Green Towns and that a Steering Group had been formed. He outlined the purpose of the Green Towns Project that is facilitated by Natural Enterprise.
- b) He said that the next meeting was 18 May at the Library followed by an information day on Saturday 4 June.
- c) Illustrations of the need for effective action highlighted by the Project ranged over energy, transport, water use and waste disposal. He stressed that there was a real need to engage local schools fully in the project.

It was unanimously resolved:

that the Town Council wholeheartedly supports the Green Towns initiative.

73/11 FLORAL DECORATIONS

- a) The Mayor introduced this item referring to the Town Council's cancellation of previous arrangements and the costs that came with them and expressing the hope that more eco-friendly arrangements could be found.
 - b) It was suggested that the matter be brought to the next Green Towns meeting.
-

74/11 BONCHURCH TOILETS

- a) Councillor David George reported on approaches made to him by Bonchurch residents and his receipt of a petition signed by almost 800 residents in reaction to the closure of both the area's public toilets.
- b) He said that the volunteers who had previously looked after the Monks Bay toilet are willing to return to that role, given assistance with public liability insurance and supplies. Given the depth of feeling revealed by the petition, he had referred the matter to County Councillor Chris Welsford who had committed to discussing the matter with the Portfolio Holder.
- c) The petition highlighted the importance of public toilet provision to visitors and tourists – many of whom had signed it - some adding the comment that they would not be returning to an area that treated its visitors with such disrespect.

It was unanimously resolved:

that the Town Council wholeheartedly endorses the concerns of the Bonchurch residents and visitors and asks that the Isle of Wight Council revisits its decision making in this regard.

75/11 ISLAND WASTE MEETING

- a) The Mayor reported on her attendance at the latest meeting of the Island Waste Committee.
 - b) Her report included the fact that the Gasification Plant at Parkhurst is now in operation but still needs further modification.
 - c) Although the Isle of Wight Council expressed satisfaction at the way the roadside collection arrangements had settled in, the Bank Holiday period revealed significant problems with it with uncollected black bags degrading the centre of the Town.
 - d) Referring to the consultation raised in the Public Forum, she said that the new proposals would come into operation next year with the issuing of Wheelie Bins for all recyclables to everyone capable of using one. Collections will then alternating weekly between rubbish and
-

recycling with the green boxes still being collected every week.

76/11 VENTNOR CARNIVAL

- a) The Mayor introduced this item reporting the organisers' concerns about shortage of funding and the event's future viability.
- b) She said that she would contact them directly for further discussions and report back to the June meeting.

77/11 ISLE OF ARTS

The Mayor commented on the remarkable success of the first Isle of Arts weekend event and the benefits it had brought to the Town.

It was unanimously resolved:

that the Town Council records a formal Vote of Thanks to the organisers and its support for the future development of the event.

PUBLIC FORUM

The Mayor re-opened the Public Forum

- a) A member of the public said that he felt it was the Town Council's responsibility to ensure that the local public toilets were kept open and that it should fund them if necessary.
- b) A resident commented that she wanted the Paddling Pool to be open at least from 1 May to end of September and that she would prefer dog exclusion to remain as at present in order to maintain consistency across the Island beaches. She also drew attention to the need to update the beach signage, including national tide charts and the Mayor asked the Town Clerk to carry out an audit of the beach's current signage.
- c) County Councillor Susan Scoccia expressed support for the point the earlier member of the public had made in relation to the Bonchurch toilets. She also asked if additional rubbish collection points could be made available at least during the season and considerable discussion followed.

The Meeting closed at 8.45 pm

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR	DATE