



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

EARLY YEARS CENTRE

7PM

12 DECEMBER 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors: Steve Stubbings (Mayor), David George, Debby Robinson, Harry Rees, Jim Morgan, Jim Toogood, Mark Robertson-Walker, Simon Haytack, Jason Mack.

NO. SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Mayor opened the Public Forum with 10 members of the public present.
 - b) There were no comments or questions at this time.
- The meeting commenced at 7.05 pm

ST CATHERINE'S CHURCH

- a) The Vicar of Ventnor, Canon Reverend Graham Morris was welcomed to the meeting and gave a short presentation outlining recent developments at the Parish Church with considerable help from the Friends of St Catherine's.
- b) He commented on the £250,000 raised to restore the Church Tower that had now given it a sustainable long term future as one of the Town's landmarks.
- c) He highlighted the concern to develop the Church and its grounds congruently with the green agenda using the soon to be installed solar panels as an example.
- d) The Churchyard project is next to come on stream with a tidying up including the placing of the gravestones around the perimeter of the churchyard. The County Archivist had confirmed that the excellent burial records kept by the Church would ensure that individual burial sites could still be identified.
- e) The plan is to create an attractive green area in the Town's centre with both walkway and wheel chair access. Unsafe gravestones would be laid flat as required by law. He showed an earlier artist's view of the finished site to which some improvements had been made as he went on to explain.
- f) The implementation of the plan is expected to take to 2014.
- g) The Mayor thanked the Vicar for his presentation.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Carol Jones and for late arrival from Councillor Debby Robinson.

190/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Jim Morgan declared a personal interest in Agenda item 14 and Councillor Harry Rees declared a personal interest as Chair of the Ventnor Social Club.

191/11 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The minutes of the Town Council meeting of 14 November 2011, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting of 29 November 2011 were received.

192/11 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance report for this meeting had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 30 November 2011 and a list of payments made during November 2011.
- b) An accompanying paper set out the related expenditure in relation to the Budget lines for the year to 30 November 2011 with variances from year-to-date budget provision.

193/11 WAR MEMORIAL

- c) A written report from the group delegated at the October meeting to progress this matter had been previously circulated to Members and was introduced with more detail by Councillor Jim Toogood.
- d) He outlined the process of investigation that had led to this point and the advice that the Memorial needed to be underpinned to secure its long term future following further investigation through a 10 metre bore hole.
- e) The problems of the base area he felt could best be addressed by taking up what was there and using the undamaged stone to build a smaller base with a tarmac surrounding area.

It was unanimously resolved that:

- i) lead responsibility for the War Memorial should rest with the British Legion as the foremost representatives of those most involved with what it represented and any restoration work be taken forward on a partnership basis with the Town Council's role and support formally acknowledged;
- ii) approval is given for the work involved in the bore hole to proceed as soon as possible and for the difference in cost of £246 between the Ventnor British Legion contribution and the £1,446 quotation to be paid by the Town Council;
- iii) the Expression of Interest Form for a grant from the War Memorials Trust be completed and submitted with immediate effect;
- iv) the Town Clerk be authorised to ask the Isle of Wight Council to remove the tree that blocks the view of the Memorial from the road; and
- v) the Town Clerk is asked to provide a progress report to the February 2012 meeting of the Town Council.

.194/11 PIGEONS' NUISANCE

- a) The Mayor introduced this item with proposal that the Isle of Wight Owl and Falconry Centre be asked to fly Hawks over a 6-week period in the town to reduce the growing nuisance caused by pigeons at a cost of £50 a week.
- b) He said that the Isle of Wight Council would have no objection to such an initiative.
- c) The importance of a publicity campaign to encourage people not to feed pigeons as that activity is a significant contribution to the problem was noted.

It was resolved:

that the offer from the Isle of Wight Owl and Falconry be accepted at a total cost of £300.

195/11 CYCLE RACKS

- a) Councillor David George introduced this item with a proposal that cycle racks be installed, following discussions with the Isle of Wight Council, in the Central Car Park and on the Esplanade.
- b) He commented that the only existing rack was in the Central Car Park and damaged.
- c) It was noted that the issue of signposting also needed to be addressed and Councillor David George agreed to bring the matter back to the next Town Council meeting.

196/11 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- a) The Mayor outlined the commitment to a Community Engagement process following
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informal discussions by Members of the challenges for the Town revealed in the recently published national Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010 and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment jointly published by the Isle of Wight Council and the Isle of Wight NHS.

- b) The background to the proposals for launching a series of meetings starting in mid-January 2010 was set out in a paper for this meeting from the Town Clerk that had been previously circulated.

It was unanimously resolved:

that the Town Council formally confirms its commitment to the development and delivery of an effective community engagement strategy and asks the Town Clerks to complete arrangements for the initial meetings.

197/11 SHORE ROAD TOILETS LEASE

A draft lease was now available for consideration by the Town Council as a long term arrangement for the Town Council's management of the Shore Road Toilet block in Bonchurch and had been previously circulated to Members.

It was unanimously resolved:

that the Town Council sign the lease.

198/11 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING DATES

A schedule of proposed dates for Town Council meetings in 2011/12, together with suggestions for the alteration of the previously agreed dates for the February and April meetings had been previously circulated to members

It was unanimously resolved:

that the schedule and revisions be adopted.

199/11 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

- a) The Town Clerks' report for this meeting had been previously circulated to Members.
 - b) The detail referred to the Putting Green, Memorial Benches, Grit Bins, the Haven, the Music for Fun Festival and the Outfit Project launch ceremony.
 - c) Councillor Harry Rees was invited to update members on developments in IWALC's work.
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PUBLIC FORUM

The Mayor re-opened the Public Forum

- a) A member of the public said that she had signed up for the Good Neighbour scheme introduced at last month's Town Council meeting.
 - b) Attention was also drawn to the launch of the Outfit facility and the Mayor asked that all Town Councillors supported it if they were able to do so.
 - c) The possibility of developing a short cycle route between Ventnor and Bonchurch was mentioned and Councillor David George said he would check whether cycling was already allowed.
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200/11 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

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 the next item is under discussion as it is of a confidential nature.

The Meeting closed at 8.55 pm

| SIGNED BY THE MAYOR | DATE |
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