



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

ST FRANCIS SCHOOL

7PM

16 APRIL 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors: Steve Stubbings (Mayor), Debby Robinson, Harry Rees, Jim Morgan, Jim Toogood, Mark Robertson-Walker, Leigh Geddes, Jason Mack.

NO. SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Mayor opened the Public Forum with 8 members of the public present. County Councillors Susan Scoccia and Chris Welsford were also present.
- b) A member of the public asked about the price increase in the dinghy park in Wheelers Bay and the Mayor invited comment from the two County Councillors. Chris Welsford said he had queried the proposed increases and the timescale for their introduction but has been told by Stuart Love that the matter is settled. Both County Councillors indicated that they felt the new levels not to be justifiable.
- c) Councillor Jim Morgan agreed that the facilities on offer are not as attractive as those of other areas. Councillor David George also stated that he thought the charges were not justifiable.
- d) It was suggested that the Town Clerk write to Stuart Love to ask what extra revenue would be generated by the increase and how the facilities on offer compared with those of the Isle of Wight Council's chosen comparators.

The meeting started at 7.15pm.

42/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Carol Jones.

43/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Jim Morgan declared a personal interest in Ventnor Community Bus CIC and in relation to TROs relating to the area he lives in

Councillor Harry Rees declared a personal interest in Ventnor Social Club.

44/12 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The minutes of the Town Council meeting of 12 March 2012, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting of 29 March 2012 were received.

45/12 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance report for this meeting had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 March 2012 and a list of payments made during March 2012.
- b) An accompanying paper set out the related expenditure in relation to the Budget lines for the year to 31 March 2012 with variances from year-to-date budget provision.
- c) The report also provided a calculation of the year end reserves position and recorded the receipt of the £135,000 2012/13 Precept payment from the Isle of Wight Council.

46/12 REVISED BUDGET FOR 2012/13

- a) The Town Clerk's paper detailing the reasons for revision had been previously circulated to Members together with the proposed new budget for monitoring purposes.
- b) Councillor David George commented that he was disappointed that the application to the Economic Improvement Fund for Grit Bins had not been viewed as of sufficient economic benefit.
- c) It was noted that the full allocation from that fund of £12,477 had now been approved across seven projects.

It was unanimously resolved:

that the revised budget for 2012/13 be formally adopted.

47/12 WAR MEMORIAL

- a) The Town Clerk's paper for this meeting contained details of the additional funding that had become available and the cost of the hiring of a Conservation Architect requested at the February meeting.
- b) Councillor Jim Toogood reported that he was very satisfied with the proposed Conservation Architect and Councillor Harry Rees said that a meeting with two officers of the Ventnor Branch of the British Legion had been very positive.

it was unanimously resolved that:

- i) subject to the full funding package becoming available the restoration project be implemented;
 - ii) a full funding application be made to the War Memorials Trust in advance of their deadline of 30 September 2012;
 - iii) the funding of the work of the Conservation Architect and the procurement process be approved from the Town Council's provision for the project in the current year's Budget; and
 - iv) powers to progress the project be delegated to the Town Clerk, advised by Councillors Harry Rees and Jim Toogood with regular reporting on progress to the Town Council.
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48/12 JUBILEE EVENTS

- a) Two requests for financial assistance with Jubilee Events had been received: one from Bonchurch Community Association for a beacon and the other from local residents for a children's party.
- b) The Mayor also reported on discussions with the Vicar of Ventnor resulting in agreement that the Parish Church would host a free musical evening celebration on the holiday weekend with the Town Council contributing to the food for the occasion.
- c) Councillor Harry Rees supported all of these approaches and Councillor Robertson-Walker said that there was a good case for supporting the two requests for contributions from community groups.

It was resolved with two abstentions:

that £100 be granted to Bonchurch Community Association, £150 to the street party and £750 to the Parish Church event.

49/12 GREEN VENTNOR

- a) Councillor David George reported on progress with the Green Ventnor agenda and thanked Wendy Marshall for her contribution to it.
 - b) He reported that around 60 hanging baskets are currently being planted by the Botanic Gardens and will be available in the town in mid-May.
 - c) Councillor Leigh Geddes reported on early progress with the Beanstalks project.
 - d) Councillor David George went on to draw attention to a free the showing of a film related to
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this Agenda at Ventnor Library on 27 April at 7.30pm and asked that Town Councillors support it.

- e) He then suggested that a formal liaison arrangement between the Town Council and the Botanic Gardens be put in place and recommended that Councillor Leigh Geddes be appointed to this role.

It was unanimously resolved:

that Councillor Leigh Geddes be appointed as the Town Council's liaison Member with Ventnor Botanic Gardens.

50/12 TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS (TROs)

- a) The recently circulated 10 TROs for Ventnor were discussed by Members and the Mayor thanked the County Councillors for their input to this.
- b) Councillor Jim Morgan reminded the Town Council that an earlier proposal to limit parking in St Catherine's Street had been withdrawn while the new TRO seeks to re-impose some of the same changes and some residents had expressed opposition directly to him.
- c) Councillor David George said he had written to the Reverend Canon Graham Morris and Bonchurch Community Association about the proposed restriction on Bonchurch Shute.
- d) Councillor Mark Robertson-Walker said that in general they seemed to him to be well thought through and would remove a number of hazards.
- e) Councillor Harry Rees said he found the proposal to extend the pay and display requirements to 31 October unacceptable and hoped they would be revisited.

It was unanimously resolved:

that individual Ward Councillors put their concerns about those TROs affecting their wards to the Town Clerk with copies to their County Councillors for forwarding to the Isle of Wight Council by Friday 27 April 2012.

51/12 YOUTH FORUM

- a) The suggestion from County Councillor Susan Scoccia that, following the re-organisation of the Youth Service and consequent changes in the role of the Youth Centre Management Committee, a Youth Forum for Ventnor be established was discussed.
- b) Councillor Mark Robertson-Walker said he had felt for some time that a Youth Forum would be a very positive development.

It was unanimously resolved:

that the Town Council supports the proposal and appoints Carol Jones as its representative with Councillor Mark Robertson-Walker as alternative.

52/12 CARNIVAL CHRISTMAS EVENT

- a) Councillor Jim Toogood asked if the Town Council would accept a request from the Carnival Committee for a contribution of £200 Town Council towards a Christmas event they were planning.
- b) Councillor Harry Rees supported the proposal, reminding members that Ventnor Carnival was the oldest Carnival on the Island and this new event would be good for the town.
- c) Councillor David George said he was surprised that this was being requested given the Town Council's adopted policy in respect of support for community groups.
- d) Councillor Debby Robinson said that the Ventnor Business Association was also planning a Christmas event and recommended that the Carnival collaborate with the Business Association that had a meeting next week.
- e) No resolution was proposed.
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53/12 STAFF APPOINTMENTS

- a) The Town Clerks' report for this meeting identified progress with staff appointments since
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the last meeting.

- b) It was noted that Julia Aratoon had been appointed to the post of Community Development Worker and would start work for the Town Council on Tuesday 24 April 2012.
 - c) It was further noted that interviews of five shortlisted applicants for the post of Economic Development Worker were taking place on Tuesday 17 April 2012 and that the employment of Dave Gray for the Beach Safety Project would begin on Monday 30 April 2012.
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54/12 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

- a) The Town Clerks' report for this meeting had been previously circulated to Members.
 - b) The detail referred to the final removal of the contents of the Winter Gardens, progress with the draft leases for the First Aid Hut and the Outfit Land and the introduction of a corporate calendar.
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PUBLIC FORUM

The Mayor re-opened the Public Forum

A member of the public drew attention to the condition of the Central Car Park bus stop.

55/12 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

In view of the confidential nature of the following items:

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 8.50pm

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR	DATE
