



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

ST LAWRENCE VILLAGE HALL

7PM

14 MAY 2012

## MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors: Steve Stubbings (Mayor), David George, Jim Morgan, Jim Toogood, Leigh Geddes.

## NO. SUBJECT

### PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Mayor opened the Public Forum with 2 members of the public present. County Councillor Susan Scoccia was also present and apologies had been received from County Councillor Chris Welsford.
- b) Councillor Susan Scoccia asked why no representatives from Ventnor Town Council attended meetings of the Isle of Wight Council's Planning Committee. The Mayor asked that the matter be considered at the next meeting of the Planning Committee.

The meeting started at 7.05pm.

### 56/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Carol Jones, Debby Robinson, Mark Robertson-Walker, Harry Rees and Simon Haytack.

### 57/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Jim Morgan declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Ventnor Community Bus CIC in respect of Agenda item 8.

### 58/12 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The minutes of the Town Council meeting of 16 April 2012, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting of 25 April 2012 and of the Staffing Committee Meeting of 25 April 2012 were received.

### 59/12 TIME BANK PRESENTATION

- a) Sarah Bird, a Timebank Projects Officer, gave a presentation to the meeting on the Timebanking approach to community development as preparation for the launch of a scheme in Ventnor.
- b) Following the engaging presentation, Sarah answered a range of questions from the meeting using examples from her direct experience to demonstrate the wide range of uses and values to both individuals and communities that the framework provided.
- c) The Mayor thanked Sarah Bird for her visit and restated the Town Council's strong support for an Island pilot scheme in Ventnor.

### 60/12 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance report for this meeting had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 30 April 2012 and a list of payments made during April 2012.
- b) An accompanying paper set out the related expenditure in relation to the Budget lines for the year to 30 April 2012 with variances from year-to-date budget provision.

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**61/12 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS**

- a) The Town Council's Accounts for 2011-12 had been previously circulated to Members and posted on the Town Council's website.
- b) The Town Clerk reported that they had been agreed by the Town Council's Internal Auditor.

**It was unanimously resolved:**

that the Accounts as presented be adopted.

- c) The Internal Auditor's Report for the Financial Year 2011-12 had been previously circulated to Members and posted on the Town Council's website.

**It was unanimously resolved:**

that the Internal Auditor's Report for 2011-12 be accepted and Gareth Hughes be thanked for his important contribution to the Town Council's work.

- d) The Annual Return for the financial year 2011-12 was considered by Members.

**It was unanimously resolved:**

that the Annual Return be accepted and the Mayor be authorised to sign Sections 1 and 2 of it, which he did.

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**62/12 INTERNAL AUDITOR APPOINTMENT 2012/13**

The Town Clerk reported that Gareth Hughes was willing to be appointed as the Town Council's Internal Auditor for 2012/13.

**It was unanimously resolved that:**

Gareth Hughes be appointed as the Town Council's Internal Auditor for the Financial Year 2012/13.

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**63/12 No. 31 Bus**

- a) Councillor Jim Morgan reminded the meeting of his declaration of a personal and prejudicial interest in this item and took part in neither the discussion nor the resolution.
- b) Councillor Jim Toogood asked the Town Council to consider writing to the Isle of Wight Council to encourage the continuation of funding for this service beyond September this year, referring to the previously circulated details of passenger journey numbers.

**It was resolved :**

that the Isle of Wight Council be formally requested to continue the financial support for the No. 31 Bus through to the end of the current financial year.

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**64/12 FIRST AID HUT LEASE**

- a) The revised lease for the First Aid Hut on the Esplanade and the accompanying Declaration in respect of a five year term had been previously circulated to Members.
- b) Councillor Jim Toogood asked that the Town Council consider asking the Isle of Wight Council if they would sell the Hut to the Town Council subject to any caveats they may have in mind.

**It was unanimously resolved:**

that the possibility of the Town Council taking ownership of the Hut at nominal cost be explored with the Isle of Wight Council.

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**65/12 JUBILEE EVENT FUNDING**

- a) The Mayor reported on the current arrangements for the use of the £1,000 allocated in the current year's Budget for funding support of locally organised Jubilee events.
  - b) He referred specifically to the possibility that had been discussed of the Parish Church organising and hosting an event for the town.
  - c) In the circumstances, arrangements did not appear sufficiently advanced to be confident of
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an appropriate event.

**It was unanimously resolved that:**

- i) the Parish Church event be not proceeded with; and
  - ii) funding be reallocated by donating an additional £150 to the Bonchurch Community Association for its Beacon event and a further £50 to the local street party.
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**66/12 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

- a) The Town Clerks' report for this meeting had been previously circulated to Members.
  - b) The detail referred to the appointment of Nicholas Cox to the post of Economic Development Worker, progress with the War Memorial Project and information on Dinghy parking charges in Wheelers Bay.
  - c) Councillor David George made Members aware of the activities of the Dogs Trust.
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**PUBLIC FORUM**

- a) The Mayor opened the Public Forum.
  - b) Councillor Susan Scoccia, stating that concerns had been raised with her about the funding of the new posts, asked if their work would be reported monthly to the Town Council Meeting.
  - c) The Mayor replied that the Town Council would continue its commitment to transparency and that there would be regular – although not monthly – reports on outcomes from the work of the staff team.
  - d) The Town Clerk added that for the avoidance of doubt it would no more be the practice for individual staff members to attend Town Council meetings routinely than it had been in the past: line management responsibility and accountability to the Town Council lies with the Town Clerk.
  - e) Councillor Jim Toogood proposed that the Isle of Wight Council be thanked for the excellent job they had done on the refurbishment of the Bandstand and the Town Clerk was asked to write accordingly.
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**67/12 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.

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The Meeting closed at 8.50pm

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SIGNED BY THE MAYOR	DATE

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