

# MINUTES OF THE VENTNOR TOWN ANNUAL MEETING

VENTNOR EARLY YEARS CENTRE

6.10PM

21 MAY 2012

## ATTENDANCE

Councillors: Steve Stubbings (Mayor), David George, Jason Mack, Jim Toogood, Leigh Geddes, Jim Morgan, Simon Haytack

County Councillors Susan Scoccia and Chris Welsford

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

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## ITEM SUBJECT

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The meeting was opened by the Mayor with 40 members of the public present.

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### 1) MAYOR'S REPORT OF 2011/12

The Mayor opened the Town Meeting with his report for 2011/12 that is attached to these minutes.

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### 2) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- a) Julia Aratoon, the Town Council's Community Engagement Officer was invited by the Mayor to give a presentation on her plans for working with the town's voluntary and community sector, a copy of which is attached with these minutes.
  - b) The Mayor added that a Timebanking Project Manager had attended last week's Town Council Meeting to give a presentation on how TimeBanking worked.
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### 3) REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

The Mayor congratulated County Councillor Susan Scoccia on her appointment as Chair of the Isle of Wight Council. She reported that:

- a) This was the seventh time she had made this report, that her appointment as Chair was a great honour and she was very pleased that the Rev Canon Morris had agreed to be her Chaplain for the year and St Catherine's her charity.
- b) She said she would take the opportunity to promote Ventnor and the Island as widely as possible, commenting that the new role required her to resign from the range of Committees on which she has served in recent years.
- c) She remains a Governor of the new Primary School and was excited to see the progress being made with the new building.
- d) She assured the meeting that her priority would be to continue to support the residents of Ventnor West and evidenced her recent success in this area with the introduction and funding of the new No. 6 Bus and the refurbishment of the Bandstand.

County Councillor for Ventnor East, Chris Welsford, reported that:

- e) There had been many issues to address and that a great deal of work had gone into preparing an alternative budget, although it had not been accepted by the ruling group.
  - f) He said that he was delighted with the work Cheetah Marine had done to deal with the problem of rotting seaweed in the harbour.
  - g) He referred to the frequent problems for the town resulting from road closures for road works and said he had taken an active role in ensuring maximum accessibility, including getting signs amended where necessary.
  - h) In welcoming the coming development of the Winter Gardens he said that it was very clear that the building needed major commercial investment if it was to survive and contribute to
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Ventnor's future.

- i) He had been active in supporting the Rew Valley Football Club in discussions with Isle of Wight Council officers to ensure that it had a viable home.
- j) In conclusion he said that he was proud of the Town Council and how well it is now working as a unit in the town's interests.
- k) He ended by saying that his particular responsibility was education, the purpose for which he had sought election to the County Council and that he was now very proud to be involved in the project of developing a Free School that he hoped would be located in Ventnor.

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**3) REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS**

- a) Brian Lucas of Bonchurch Community Association said that the Association felt that the Jubilee should be celebrated and had arranged an event on 7 June to which Ventnor Town Council's funding was welcomed.
- b) He then spoke as a member of Ventnor Enhancement Fund referring to their new project of developing a community planting facility.
- a) Rachel Thompson from St Catherine's told the meeting that the school's Summer Fair was taking place on 29 June
- b) Nigel Cox from Ventnor Baptist Church reported that major internal works were underway with a view of making the church building more accessible to and supportive of the community.

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**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 6.55PM**

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SIGNED BY THE MAYOR	DATE