



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS

7PM

18 MAY 2015

## MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors: Jason Mack (Mayor), Leigh Geddes, Brian Lucas, Tony Marvin, Ed Gouge, Stewart Blackmore, Jim Toogood.

## NO. SUBJECT

### PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Mayor opened the Public Forum with 12 members of the public present.
- b) A member of the public asked about the incorrect signage about dogs on the West end of the beach.
- c) Another asked about the condition of the original street signs in the town and who was responsible for them. Councillor Brian Lucas said it was important to retain the originals and suggested that contact be made with Island Roads on the matter.

### 60/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Delian Backhouse-Fry, Steve Stubbings, Harry Rees and Ken Knapman.

### 61/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest at this stage.

### 62/15 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 13 April 2015, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Annual Town Council meeting of 11 May 2015, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- c) The Minutes of the Annual Town meeting of 11 May 2015, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- d) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meetings of 5 May 2015.

### 63/15 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance report for this meeting (41/15) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 30 April 2015 and a list of payments made during April 2015.
- b) An accompanying paper set out expenditure in relation to the Budget lines for the 2015/16 financial year to date with variances from year-to-date budget provision showing an underspend over the first month of £1,249 against Budget.
- c) It was noted that compliance with the Transparency Code was now in place with the full list of non-salary expenditure items in April now available on the Town Council's web site.
- d) It was noted that the Town Council was holding a total of £68,050 on behalf of the group working to retain the Methodist Church as a venue for the Boxing Club that is not included in the bank account totals above.

#### It was unanimously resolved that:

- i) the Finance Report be accepted; and
- ii) the daily limit of expenditure through HSBC's Internet Banking facility be increased from

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£7,500 to £10,000.

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**64/15 INTERNAL AUDIT**

- a) The annual report of the Town Council's Internal Auditor Gareth Hughes had been previously circulated to Members as Report 42/15 for this meeting.
- b) The Report is also available on the Town Council's web site.

**It was unanimously resolved that:**

the Internal Auditor's Report be accepted and Gareth Hughes be thanked for his thorough preparation of it

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**65/15 OUR PLACE END OF GRANT REPORT**

- a) The End of Grant Report to the Community Development Foundation – the organisation managing the funding for the Our Place programme – had been submitted and a copy attached to this Report.
- b) The Town Council had successfully applied for three grants associated with the programme: Getting Going (£10,000), Going Further (£7,000) and Breaking New Ground (£13,000)
- c) An amount of £1,000 from each grant has been held back until the End of Grant Report has been submitted when it is due to be released.

**It was unanimously resolved that:**

the Town Council notes the submission of the End of Grant Report.

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**66/15 JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

- a) One of the uses of the Our Place programme grant had been the commissioning from the Island's Public Health service of a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment specifically for Ventnor as a significant contribution to the health and wellbeing element of the Town Council's application.
  - b) Public Health's Deputy Director and her researcher colleague met with the Town Council's Our Place team on 11 May to present initial findings and a selection from these are attached to Report 45/15 for this meeting.
  - c) Councillor Ed Gouge commented on the difference between the better than England ranking on pre-school children and the significantly worse indicators on educational achievement.
  - d) Councillor Brian Lucas commented on the high number of indicators rating Ventnor significantly worse than England as a whole.
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**67/15 LOCALITY WORKING**

- a) The Mayor introduced this item by outlining the emerging Locality Working structures for health and wellbeing services with Ventnor being involved in the South Wight Locality.
- b) Councillors Leigh Geddes and Tony Marvin both stressed the importance of the Town Council's direct involvement in the South Wight Locality Team, particularly in view of the information from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. Councillor Stewart Blackmore said he was of the same opinion.

**It was unanimously resolved that:**

- i) the Town Council believes that direct involvement of the Town Council with the South Wight Locality Team is justified by the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment prepared for the town by Public Health as part of the Our Place Programme;
  - ii) asks its Clerk to prepare and present the case for that involvement to the Deputy Director of Public Health as the Public Health Lead for the South Wight Locality Team; and
  - iii) approves the Town Clerk's proposal of its Community Development Officer Tony McCarthy as the Town Council's representative in that regard.
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**68/15 VENTNOR CENTRAL**

- a) Report 46/15 for this meeting set out the background for the Isle of Wight Council's submission of draft Heads of Terms as the basis for a lease of Ventnor Central and the reasons why responding to it at this stage would be premature.
- b) A copy of the draft Heads of Terms was attached to the Report.

**It was unanimously resolved:**  
to advise the Isle of Wight Council that the Town Council cannot enter into discussion of the draft Heads of Terms until greater clarity is available on the future uses of the building and the available contribution to the essential capital programme for it.

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**69/15 CAR PARKS**

- a) The context for the decision of the Isle of Wight Council's Executive on Thursday 14 May to grant a lease to the Town Council for the Dudley Road, Market Street, Pound Lane and Shore Road Car Parks was outlined in Report 47/15.
  - b) The decision was welcomed by the Town Council and the necessary next steps identified in the Report were noted.
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**70/15 SKATE PARK LEASE**

- a) The request from both the Isle of Wight Council and the Skate Park Committee for the Town Council to take on a lease for the land the latter occupies on the basis of the supplied draft was the subject of Report 48/15 for this meeting.
- b) The legal advice requested by the Public Buildings Working Group on the liabilities for the Town Council consequent on taking on the proposed draft lease was included in the Report.

**It was unanimously resolved to:**  
advise the Isle of Wight Council that the Town Council is unable at this time to take on the proposed lease for the Stake Park site and hopes that planned changes in its constitution and upgrading of its ramps may allow it to do so in the future.

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**71/15 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT**

- a) The Town Clerks' report – 49/15 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions.
  - b) It included sections on the Department of Communities and Local Government's (DCLG) approval of our Our Place Operational Plan, the Resident Survey, an invitation to a Round Table discussion at the DCLG, the Youth Offer, Debt Advice sessions in the Green Room, Working Groups and the increasing use of Twitter.
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**PUBLIC FORUM**

- a) The Chair re-opened the Public Forum.
  - b) A member of the public pointed up the issues caused for residents and toilet by the continuing temporary three way lights system and asked if Island Roads could be asked how much longer they would be necessary.
  - a) Another member of the public referred to the inconvenience caused by the fact that only one of the two Pay & Display machines on the Esplanade is working.
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**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7.55PM**

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SIGNED BY THE MAYOR	DATE
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