



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

ST MARGARET'S HALL

7PM

9 FEBRUARY 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

NO. SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Mayor opened the Public Forum with 11 members of the public present.
- b) Wendy Marshall said that the disputed rubbish had been removed from Lowtherville.

14/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Delian Backhouse-Fry and Steve Stubbings.

15/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Harry Rees declared an interest as Chair of Ventnor Social Club.

16/15 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 12 January 2015, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meetings of 15 January 2014 and 2 February 2015 were received.

MY LIFE A FULL LIFE

- a) The Mayor invited Gill Kennett, the Integrated Localities Workstream Lead of the My Life a Full Life Programme, accompanied by her colleague Simon Poole to provide the meeting with an update on the programme's progress.
- b) Gill Kennett opened by saying that she had asked to come to the meeting because Ventnor has always been supportive of the programme and she was keen to outline the arrangements for the continuation of services following the recently announced closure of the Ventnor Clinic.
- c) She reminded the meeting that My Life a Full Life is a partnership between the NHS, the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the Isle of Wight Council to develop integrated care at the point of delivery.
- d) She identified three main streams of work: integrated locality teams, self-help support – with Isle Help the central point – and crisis response teams so that care is made available when it is needed through a multi-disciplinary team providing home support for up to 72 hours.
- e) The Localities are South Wight, North East Wight and West & Central Wight; each has a locality lead GP, a locality lead nurse, a long term care team, community matrons and a continence team.
- f) On the subject of Ventnor Clinic's closure following the end of the lease and the owner's wish to sell the premises, she reported that the Health Visitors were now able to stay in Ventnor thanks to room being found for them at the refurbished Salisbury Gardens. Ventnor, Midwives had been accommodated at the Health Centre and some Mental Health Services were now available in the Arthur Walker Clinic.
- g) Podiatry had not yet found a base in Ventnor but if a lift to the second floor of one of the

town's surgeries is able to be installed a base might be possible on the second floor.

- h) Councillor Stewart Blackmore asked about the Mental Health provision at the Arthur Webster Clinic.
 - i) Councillor Ken Knapman welcomed the developments Gill Kennett had described before asking what was actually needed for the Podiatry service to be delivered locally. Gill Kennett responded by referring to the Red Book Arrangement regulations for Podiatry care that could be provided in a GP Surgery but probably not elsewhere.
 - j) Councillor Leigh Geddes asked Gill Kennett how well she felt the changes were being implemented.
 - k) Councillor Harry Rees referred to the proposed cut back in services, highlighting the £4.2M NHS deficit and wondered how these very desirable changes could be funded.
 - l) Gill Kennett said that the Social Care Act had done the Isle of Wight no favours given that 24.1% of its population is over 65 years of age.
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17/15 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance report for this meeting (10/15) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 January 2015 and a list of payments made during January 2015.
- b) An accompanying paper set out expenditure in relation to the Budget lines for the 2014/15 financial year to date with variances from year-to-date budget provision showing an underspend over the first ten months of 2014/15 of £28,646 against Budget.
- c) 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:
the Finance Report be accepted.

18/15 DISCRETIONARY SERVICES

- a) Report 11/15 for this meeting summarised the recent developments in the Isle of Wight Council's changes in funding of Beach Cleaning and Grounds Maintenance from 1 April 2015 on the basis of the letter received from Strategic Manager for Recreation, Leisure and Public Spaces dated 23 January 2015.
- b) Councillor Tony Marvin asked about retention of Blue Flag status and the Town Clerk said that the Isle of Wight Council had committed to assisting Town and Parish Councils in this matter.

It was unanimously resolved that the Town Council:

- i) confirms the inclusion of provisions of £15,000 for Beach Cleaning and £20,000 for Grounds Maintenance in its Budget and Precept for 2015/16;
 - ii) authorises the Town Clerk, advised by the Public Buildings Working Group and on the basis of decisions of the Staffing Committee as appropriate, to establish arrangements for the cleaning of the four beaches – Ventnor, Bonchurch, Steephill Cove and Orchard Bay - from 1 April 2015;
 - iii) authorises the Town Clerk, advised by the Public Buildings Working Group, to conduct a tender process for the maintenance of the 17 areas identified in the letter from the Isle of Wight Council dated 23 January 2015 to be effective from 1 April 2015; and
 - iv) authorises the Town Clerk to deploy up to £9,000 from the contingency provision for services the Isle of Wight Council will no longer to continue to restore the Cascades to the standard the town expects including the implementation of the specification attached to this report and the repair and refurbishment of the handrails and fencing.
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19/15 BUDGET & PRECEPT 2015/16

- a) The background to the development of the Draft 2015/16 Budget attached to Report 12/15 was identified in the body of Report 12/15.
 - b) The Town Clerk introduced the report with the reminder that the Isle of Wight Council's
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Budget would not be finalised until 25 February with all the proposals for it not being absolutely clear until 20 February; consequently agreement had been reached with the Isle of Wight Council that, if the Town Council felt it necessary, the finalisation of the Budget could wait until a meeting of the Town Council to be arranged for Monday 23 February.

- c) Councillor Stewart Blackmore said that he regarded it as a sad indictment of County Hall that the uncertainty about continuing funding of services important to local residents still remains at this time.
- d) Councillor Brian Lucas said that he was in favour of postponing a final decision on the Budget as the cuts still under discussion would require an additional £64k from the Precept to take them on. He went on to say that this increasingly felt like a return to the earlier times of Ventnor Urban District Council, but at least those services taken on locally would enable local control of them.
- e) Councillor Marvin asked that assurance be sought that the Ventnor Park Toilet would not be closed.
- f) Councillor Harry Rees said that Ventnor is not alone in this situation and that the Town Council had followed correct procedure in consulting closely with residents.
- g) Councillor Ken Knapman agreed with the need to arrange a further meeting of the Town Council before finalising the budget.
- h) Councillor Harry Rees asked if the income and expenditure from the operation of Salisbury Gardens should be included in the Budget. The Town Clerk said that in following the Town Council's commitment that the operational costs of Salisbury Gardens would not require additional Precept support this was not appropriate and the financial impact of Salisbury Gardens would be included in the Town Council's Annual Accounts.

It was unanimously resolved that the Town Council:

agrees the Draft Budget attached to this Report as the basis of its 2015/16 work but will postpone setting its final Budget and Precept until a meeting of the Town Council on Monday 23 February 2015.

20/15 SALISBURY GARDENS

- a) Councillor Stewart Blackmore said he wanted to record how successful the building's Open Day had been, attended by many more people than anticipated.
- b) Councillor Ken Knapman said he wanted to thank Tony McCarthy for moving on with the development of the Green Room including promising meetings on adult education provision.

It was unanimously resolved that:

the Town Council records its appreciation of the contribution to the successful completion of the Salisbury Gardens refurbishment programme of three volunteers in particular: Councillor Jim Toogood for his oversight of the building programme, Marcia Bartlett for her detailed control of its costs and Neil Geddes for many hours of pro bono time in providing drawings and advice throughout.

21/15 SEABREEZE PLAY AREA

- a) Report 14/15 summarised the circumstances surrounding the disputed invoice from the Isle of Wight Council in the sum of £1,500 for the maintenance and inspections of the Seabreeze Play Area/
- b) Councillor Harry Rees asked if the Town Council had ever committed to the payment of £1,500 for those services and the Town Clerk said that the only reference found in past minutes was a commitment to pay the sum of £750 for inspections of the facility.
- c) The Town Council does, however, have a commitment within the funding agreement for the project to maintain it for a period of 10 years.

It was unanimously resolved that the Town Council:

- i) authorises the Town Clerk to explore alternative arrangements for the fulfilment of the Town Council's responsibilities under the Agreement; and
 - ii) asks the Public Buildings Work Group to consider the options in the light of the quoted costs of alternative provision.
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22/15 ESPLANADE CCTV CAMERA

- a) The Mayor introduced this item, responding to the request of the holder of the Beach Franchise to install a CCTV Camera to cover the Beach Huts.
- b) Councillor Jim Toogood supported the request in the interests of protecting the facilities from damage.

It was unanimously resolved that:

the Town Council agrees to the installation on the First Aid Hut of a CCTV Camera by and for the use of the operator of the Beach Franchise on the First Aid Hut.

23/15 BRING BACK BINS

- a) A request had been received from the Isle of Wight Council for advice on a proposal to move the Bring Bank Bins from their current site in Old Station Road to the Dudley Road Car Park.
 - b) Councillors Tony Marvin and Leigh Geddes both said that the Grove Road Car Park would be a preferred alternative.
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24/15 FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT

- a) The basis for an annual review of the Financial Risk Assessment by the Town Council was set out in Report 26/14 for this meeting.
- b) The current arrangements for the management of financial risks had been previously circulated to Members in advance of the meeting for comment and amendment.

It was unanimously resolved:

that the Town Council adopts the circulated list of arrangements for the management of financial risk in the financial year 2015/16.

25/15 ISLE OF WIGHT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (IWALC)

- a) Councillor Harry Rees reported on the latest developments within IWALC and his contribution to them.
 - b) He referred to the Bridle Park Survey and the fact that he had now been appointed as an Advisor on European Funding to Leader of the Council.
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26/15 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

- a) The Town Clerks report – 9/15 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions.
 - b) It included sections on the Salisbury Gardens Celebration Event, the Annual Consultation Event, the latest meeting of the Our Place Vision Groups, the meetings with Professor Steve Fothergill of Sheffield Hallam University and the Case Study of Ventnor's Our Place programme due on 11 February.
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PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Chair re-opened the Public Forum.
 - b) Wendy Marshall said she was glad that the request for the installation of a CCTV Camera on the First Aid hut had been accepted.
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27/15 EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

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 items is under discussion as it is of a confidential nature.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.50PM

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE

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