



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

SALISBURY GARDENS

7PM

23 FEBRUARY 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors: Jason Mack (Mayor), Leigh Geddes, Steve Stubbings, Brian Lucas, Tony Marvin, Ken Knapman, Ed Gouge, Stewart Blackmore, Jim Toogood, Delian Backhouse-Fry.

NO. SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Mayor opened the Public Forum with 6 members of the public present.
- b) There were no questions or comments at this time.

29/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Harry Rees

30/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Steve Stubbings declared an interest in Agenda Item 3, Budget & Precept 2015/16, and stated he would exempt himself from the resolution on it.

31/15 BUDGET & PRECEPT 2015/16

- a) Report 20/15 for this meeting identified the costs of services under consideration for incorporating into the Town Council's Budget for 2015/16 as additions to the Draft Budget previously agreed at the meeting of 9 February 2015 and attached to this Report.

31 Bus

- b) Councillor Jim Toogood said that he felt this was a really important service to retain; Councillor Brian Lucas added that he agreed and hoped that to secure its longer term future a more commercial approach could be discussed with the operator of it.
- c) Councillor Leigh Geddes agreed, stressing the value of the service to the residents of St Lawrence and Bonchurch in particular.
- d) Councillor Ken Knapman asked that consideration to be given to extensions of the current route.
- e) Councillor Delian Backhouse drew attention to the fact that not all the bus stops are clearly enough marked.
- f) The Mayor assured Members that these matters would all be explored in detail by the Public Buildings Working Group.

Public Toilets

- g) Councillor Ken Knapman said that it was clear from the recent consultation that Ventnor will not stand for the toilets being closed.
- h) The Mayor commented that it might be possible to secure a reduction in the business rate element of the cost of the Esplanade toilets in view of their location.

Ventnor Library

- i) Concerns were expressed about the limitation to one member of staff in the Isle of Wight Council's plans for Community Supported Libraries.

Ventnor Central

- j) The Clerk explained that the proposed provision for a contribution to the running costs was

to ensure all the options for the building's future were fully explored and that under current conditions it was not expected that more than half its running costs would be recouped through lettings.

Excluding the Member with a Declared Interest, it was unanimously resolved that the Town Council:

- i) agrees to add funding for the No. 31 Bus (£7,000), Public Toilets (£16,000), Ventnor Central (£6,000) and Ventnor Library (£6,000) to the draft Budget attached to Report 20/15 for this meeting;
- ii) confirms its consequent total net Budget for 2015/16 to be £250,153;
- iii) sets the Precept income to fund it at £232,326 together with the grant of £17,827 from the Isle of Wight Council, representing a £96.97 charge for the year per Band D Council Tax paying household; and
- iv) asks the Town Clerk to inform the Isle of Wight Council accordingly.

32/15 CAR PARKS

- a) Report 21/15 for this meeting set out the background to the draft Heads of Terms, attached to the Report, for the lease of the Dudley Road, Market Street, Pound Lane and Shore Road Car Parks to Ventnor Town Council from 1 April 2015.
- b) Councillor Brian Lucas pointed out that the reference to the Retail Price Index (RPI) should be removed as changes in it would not affect income from parking tariffs.
- c) Both Councillor Leigh Geddes and Councillor Brian Lucas welcomed the opportunity the development offered for wider social and community uses of these spaces.
- d) Councillor Steve Stubbings complimented the Mayor and Clerk for their work in progressing this development and said that it could provide a model to be applied elsewhere.

It was unanimously resolved that the Town Council:

- i) approves the Heads of Terms attached to Report 21/15 for this meeting, subject to the removal of the reference to the Retail Price Index, and the proposed timetable for its implementation;
- ii) authorises the Town Clerk, advised by the Public Buildings Working Group, to progress and conclude discussions with the Isle of Wight Council on the final version of the Management Agreement;
- iii) authorises the Town Clerk, advised by the Public Buildings Working Group, to make all necessary arrangements for the management of the four car parks from 1 April 2015; and
- iv) agrees an allocation of £5,000 from the contingency element of current year's Budget for the preparations including signage.

PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Chair re-opened the Public Forum.
- b) A member of the public asked about the impact of cuts on the Library's opening hours and the Mayor reassured everyone that a proper consultation process would precede final decisions.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7.50PM

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR	DATE

