



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

ST MARGARET'S HALL

7PM

9 MARCH 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

NO. SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Mayor opened the Public Forum with 2 Members of the public present.
- b) There were no questions or comments at this time.

33/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Steve Stubbings.

34/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest at this time.

35/15 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meetings of 9 February 2015 and 23 February 2015 having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meeting of 24 February 2015 were received.

36/15 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance report for this meeting (22/15) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 28 February 2015 and a list of payments made during February 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 eleven months of 2014/15 of £39,991 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.

37/15 UNBUDGETED EXPENDITURE

- a) Members considered two proposals for items of unbudgeted expenditure as set out in Report 23/15.
- b) The first was the proposed allocation of up to £1,800 to replace the seasonal bunting to be funded from the underspend in the infrastructure lines of the current Budget.
- c) The second was for a contribution of £400 to the new Ventnor Business Association Map in exchange for space in it, funded from the current year's contingency.
- d) Councillor Brian Lucas commented on the short life of earlier bunting and asked that more robust material was sourced for this time.

- e) Councillor Tony Marvin posed the question as to whether bunting is the best solution to mark summer celebrations in the town.
- f) Councillor Delian Backhouse-Fry said that it would be worth asking Cowes for their advice given that their bunting appeared to be longer lasting.
- g) Councillor Harry Rees asked if the Ventnor Business Association had decided on their deployment of the Portas funding and the Mayor responded with the latest information as made available at a recent meeting with its Chair and Secretary.

It was unanimously resolved that:

Both items of expenditure be approved and the Public Buildings Working Group asked to explore more robust materials for the bunting.

38/15 SEASONAL SERVICES

- a) The arrangements for the opening of the Putting Green, Paddling Pool and Beach Safety provision during the week commencing 30 March were provided for Members in Report 24/15.
- b) Councillor Leigh Geddes said that congratulations were due to the Public Buildings Working Group and the Clerks for the seamless way these valued services are provided.

It was unanimously resolved that:

the reported arrangements be confirmed.

39/15 CAR PARKS

- a) In Report 25/15 the Town Clerk had set out the recommendations of the meeting of the Public Buildings Working Group of 3 March for the changes to Tariffs, Permits and Signage of the four car parks the Town Council would soon be managing.
- b) Councillor Ken Knapman suggested that an additional band of £1.50 or £2 could be added for a 2-4 hour period.
- c) Councillor Stewart Blackmore said that the PBWG wanted to keep changes as simple as possible at this stage.
- d) Councillor Harry Rees suggested that further advice be taken as to whether the changes would require a Car Park Variation Order.

It was unanimously resolved that the Town Council will:

- i) set the Tariffs for the Dudley Road, Market Street and Pound Lane Car Parks at the levels operated by the Isle of Wight Council prior to the recent increase;
 - ii) set the Tariff for the Shore Road Car Park at £1 for the first hour and at £3 for a full 8-hour day;
 - iii) explore the options for discounted Permits for use by residents and local accommodation providers with a view to their implementation from 1 October;
 - iv) continue the current discounted Permit for tenants of Salisbury Gardens at £120 a year;
 - v) take further advice on any requirement for a Car Parking Order; and
 - vi) ask that the limitations set out in the draft Management Agreement and identified in section 4b) of Report 25/15 be removed.
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40/15 BEACH CLEANING

- a) Councillor Ken Knapman stressed the importance of retaining the Blue Flag status for the town's beaches.
- b) Councillor Harry Rees said that the Blue Flag timescale is tight and hoped that the Isle of Wight Council officers would assist with the process.

It was unanimously resolved that the Town Council:

commits to taking such steps as are necessary to secure the continuation of the Blue Flag status.

41/15 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

Councillor Brian Lucas said that although the Town Council would not normally have expected to take on this service, the good news is that the quality of our green environment can be restored

after years of deterioration.

It was unanimously resolved that the Town Council:

thanks the Public Buildings Working Group members for the detailed work its members have carried out as the basis for the tender process outlined in Report 27/15 and appoints Councillor Brian Lucas to attend the opening of the tenders for the new contract at noon on Friday 13 March.

42/15 OUR PLACE PROGRAMME

The latest developments within the Our Place programme were set out in Report 28/15 for this meeting.

43/15 ANNUAL MEETING DATES

- a) The Town Council's responsibility for the organisation of both the Annual Town Council Meeting and the Annual Town Meeting was the subject of Report 29/15.
- b) It was agreed to follow the same pattern as in previous years.
- c) In a further discussion of venues for future Town Council meetings there was agreement that these should be held in the Salisbury Gardens' Green Room.

It was unanimously resolved that:

- i) the routine Town Council meeting for May be moved one week from the previously planned date of 11 May to 18 May;
 - ii) the Annual Town Council Meeting be arranged for Monday 11 May at 6pm at St Francis Primary School Hall;
 - iii) The Annual Town Meeting be arranged for Monday 11 May at St Francis Primary School Hall immediately following the Annual Town Council Meeting; and
 - iv) The Town Council's thanks be formally expressed to the upper Ventnor Community Association for making St Margaret's Hall available for Town Council meetings.
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44/15 CHEETAH MARINE

- a) The request from the Isle of Wight Council for the Town Council's view of the proposal to declare Cheetah Marine the Special Purchaser for an area of land adjacent to its current unit on the Industrial Estate was discussed.
- b) A copy of the Isle of Wight Council's report on the matter was attached to Report 30/15 for this meeting.

It was unanimously resolved that:

the Town Council sees no reason to object to this proposal.

45/15 ISLE OF WIGHT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (IWALC)

- a) Councillor Harry Rees reported on the latest developments within IWALC and his contribution to them, concentrating on the current concern about the government's decision that the Local Economic Partnerships (LEPs) will only have an advisory role in the distribution of funding.
 - b) Councillor Ken Knapman reported on IWALC's decision that the new Local Awards Scheme for Town & Parish Councils was not fit for purpose and further developments were awaited from the negotiations on the Scheme that the Hampshire Association of Local Councils are conducting with the National Association of Local Councils (NALC).
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46/15 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

- a) The Town Clerks report – 31/15 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions.
 - b) It included sections on Green Room Lettings, HTP Training, Public Meetings Working Group, Sandown Meetings, Community Development Working Group and Ventnor Business Association.
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PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Chair re-opened the Public Forum.
- b) There were no questions or comments at this point.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8:10PM

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR	DATE