



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS

7PM

13 APRIL 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

NO. SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Mayor opened the Public Forum with five members of the public present.
- b) A member of the public asked if it was possible to brighten the Gaiety site by the use of Planters during the summer season.
- c) Another asked about the apparent neglect of Ventnor in this year's Island Roads' programme. Councillor Ken Knapman said that he found it hard to understand Island Roads' planning schedules.
- d) Councillor Steve Stubbings suggested the Clerk be asked to write to Island Roads to explore the possibility of some programme adjustment.

47/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jim Toogood and Harry Rees.

48/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Steve Stubbings Declared an interest as Deputy Leader of the Isle of Wight Council.

49/15 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 9 March 2015, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meetings of 17 March 2015 and 7 April 2015 were received.

50/15 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance report for this meeting (32/15) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 March 2015 and a list of payments made during March 2015.
- b) An accompanying paper set out expenditure in relation to the Budget lines for the 2014/15 financial year with variances from the Precept budget provision showing an underspend over the year of £39,766..
- 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.

51/15 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

- a) The Annual Accounts for 2014/15 on a Receipts and Benefits basis were attached to this Report as an early indication to Members of transactions during the financial year in the same way as in previous years.

- b) The increased turnover of the Town Council during 2014/15 requires final Annual Accounts for the year to be presented on an Income and Expenditure basis that will be presented to the Town Council meeting of 18 May for approval.
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52/15 TRANSPARENCY CODE

Compliance with the mandatory elements of the Department for Communities and Local Government's Transparency Code of February 2015 was the subject of Report 34/15 for this meeting.

It was unanimously resolved that the following be published on the Town Council's website:

- i) every expenditure item apart from salaries information on a monthly basis;
 - ii) every tender process for a contract in excess of £5,000 on a monthly basis;
 - iii) any contract, commissioned activity, purchase order, framework agreement and any other legally enforceable agreement with a value that exceeds £5,000 be published as they occur;
 - iv) all leasehold properties held by the Town Council by 16 October 2015; and
 - v) its waste contract.
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53/15 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

- a) Report 35/15 for this meeting summarised the contractual arrangement now in place with John O'Connor (Grounds Maintenance) Ltd for the provision of grounds maintenance services in the town until 31 December 2017.
- b) Councillor Leigh Geddes asked about the condition of the railings and Councillor Brian Lucas commented that the worst railings would be repaired and that the impact of the sea air would always be a problem as they were not galvanised.
- c) Councillor Delian Backhouse-Fry asked if a list of proposed plants could be made available.

It was unanimously resolved to:

- i) formally agree the revised price for the Grounds Maintenance contract of £26,750;
 - ii) offset the Isle of Wight Council's contribution to the Beach Cleaning programme against the cost of the Grounds Maintenance contract; and
 - iii) ask the Town Clerk to advise the Town Council of any adjustments to devolved services budget lines required to meet the cost of the Grounds Maintenance contract as they arise.
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54/15 OUR PLACE PROGRAMME

- a) Report 36/15 for this meeting summarised the developments since the last meeting of the Town Council and identified the benefits that had already derived from it.
 - b) The Report also identified elements of the continuing work, including the Residents' Survey – a copy of the questionnaire to be used was attached to the Report – the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Ventnor, the Breaking New Ground Project and the research in local Child Poverty in partnership with the Children's Centre.
 - c) Councillor Steve Stubbings said that he particularly welcomed the Child Poverty project and looked forward to the learning that would emerge from it.
 - d) Councillor Ed Gouge advised that the distribution of the Residents' Survey would be better left until after the election and that was accepted.
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55/15 SAFEGUARDING POLICY

- a) The Clerk explained that although the Town Council had a Safeguarding Policy in place, following the first six months of its Youth Offer Programme a draft for a more complete policy had been drawn up by the two professional Youth Workers employed in it.
- b) A copy of the draft had previously been circulated to Members and one was attached to Report 37/15 for this meeting.

It was unanimously resolved:

to adopt the draft policy and confirm Charlotte Denness as the Town Council's Safeguarding Officer.

56/15 HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY

- a) The Town Clerk's concerns about the current *Draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy for the Isle of Wight 2015-17* were summarised in Report 38/15 for this meeting as an introduction to a discussion of the invitation to comment during the current consultation on it in advance of the closing date of 28 April.
- b) Discussion focused on the absence of any reference to the involvement of Town and Parish Councils among the partner organisations to which the Draft Strategy referred and the absence of any particular resource commitment to the Island's most deprived areas.
- c) Councillor Steve Stubbings suggested that he arrange a meeting for the Town Clerk to discuss those concerns with the responsible Officer and that was welcomed.

57/15 SKATEPARK LEASE

- a) Report 39/15 set out the request from the Skatepark Committee for the Town Council to take on responsibility for a lease for their site that the Isle of Wight Council wanted to have in place instead of the still current Licence of July 2008.
- b) Members welcomed the increased local interest in and support for the Skatepark and Councillor Brian Lucas drew attention to the current Art Auction that was committed to raising sufficient funds to replace the existing structure.

It was unanimously resolved:

to commit to taking on the lease subject to an acceptable outcome of discussions with the Isle of Wight Council and the support of the Public Buildings Working Group.

58/15 PERPETUUS DEVELOPMENT

- a) Councillor Ed Gouge introduced this item reporting on the formal consultation on the off-shore development which appears to have ended unsatisfactorily.
- b) He said that he had discussed the matter with the Chair of Niton and Whitwell Parish Council and proposed that Ventnor Town Council join with them in expressing concerns to the relevant authorities.
- c) Councillor Brian Lucas said that greater specificity was necessary in both the offshore and inshore elements of the programme.
- d) Councillor Steve Stubbings explained that the offshore development was entirely the responsibility of the Marine Management Organisation and that any comments from Town Councils were unlikely to have any effect.

It resolved with two abstentions that:

the Marine Management Organisation be asked that the consultation period be opened for a period in view of the confusion about aspects of the proposals.

58/15 ISLE OF WIGHT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (IWALC)

In the absence of Councillor Harry Rees this item was postponed until the May meeting of the Town Council.

59/15 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

- a) The Town Clerks report – 40/15 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions.
- b) It included sections on Bunting, Signage, Guardian Columnists visit and the receipt of the 2015/16 Precept.

PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Chair re-opened the Public Forum.
- b) A member of the public asked if John O'Conner's plant buying could include the Botanic Gardens.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8:30PM

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR	DATE