



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS

7PM

13 JULY 2015

## MEMBERS PRESENT

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

## NO. SUBJECT

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### PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Mayor opened the Public Forum with 8 members of the public present.
  - b) There were no comments or questions at this time.
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### 84/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Jim Toogood and Ken Knapman.

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### 85/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Steve Stubbings declared an interest as Member of the Isle of Wight Council.

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### 86/15 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 8 June 2015, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
  - b) The Minutes of the Town Council's Staffing Committee meeting of 23 May 2015 were noted.
  - c) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meetings 17 June and 8 July 2015 were noted.
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### 87/15 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance report for this meeting (58/15) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 30 June 2015 and a list of payments made during June 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 overspend over the first three months of £410 against Budget.
- c) It was noted that the Town Council was holding a total of £57,050 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.

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### 88/15 ADDITIONAL CHEQUE SIGNATORY

Report 59/15 for this meeting proposed the addition of an additional authorised signatory to the Town Council's HSBC Bank Accounts.

**It was unanimously resolved that:**  
Councillor Jim Toogood's name be added to the list of authorised signatories to the Town Council's HSBC Bank Accounts.

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### 89/15 VENTNOR CENTRAL LEASE

- a) A revised version of the Heads of Terms for a potential lease of Ventnor Central (previously the Ventnor Youth Club) to the Town Council by the Isle of Wight Council was attached to Report 60/15 for this meeting.
- b) The revision had been assessed by the Town Council's Public Building's Working Group at its meeting of 25 June concluding with a recommendation that it be now agreed.
- c) Councillor Harry Rees asked about compliance with health and safety requirements and the Clerk replied that the building was being managed within the necessary restrictions.
- d) Councillor Rees went on to ask about the recent break in to the building and the Clerk confirmed that the damage was limited and both Police and the Isle of Wight Council had been informed.
- e) Councillor Steve Stubbings congratulated the Public Buildings Working Group on the quality of their work in relation to the Heads of Terms.

**It was resolved that:**

the revised Heads of Terms attached to the Report 60/15 for a lease of Ventnor Central from the Isle of Wight Council to 31 March 2017 be agreed.

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### 90/15 CAR PARK PERMITS

- a) The Public Buildings Working Group's recommendations for the use of Permits in the Town Council managed car parks were set out in Report 61/15 for this meeting.
- b) Questions were asked about the reason for the restriction to one permit per household and the answers accepted.
- c) A longer discussion was prompted by the Clerk reporting that the Isle of Wight Council asked that the 200 metre radius restriction on eligibility for a Resident Permit be retained and Councillor Stewart Blackmore asked that his opposition to this be recorded.
- d) Councillors Leigh Geddes and Steve Stubbings both stressed the importance getting started as arrangements can be reviewed from time to time.

**It was proposed by Councillor Harry Rees, seconded by Councillor Steve Stubbings and unanimously resolved that:**

- i) Resident Permits for the four Car Parks be issued on the basis of the Terms and Conditions Document attached to this Report.
  - ii) Tenant Permits be issued to tenants of Salisbury Gardens on the basis of one vehicle for any member of their staff working from the building.
  - iii) Accommodation Provider and Temporary Permits be developed subject to satisfactory enforcement arrangements being agreed with the Isle of Wight Council.
  - iv) Permits be charged at £120 per annum including VAT of £20.
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### 91/15 SALISBURY GARDENS

- a) Report 62/15 summarised developments at Salisbury Gardens in restoration work on the building's western wall, the installation of bicycle sheds for use by the Police team, confirmation that the team's 'Go Live' date for occupancy of the building has been set for 3 August, external and internal signage of the building and the return to it of the large images of historic Ventnor.
  - b) Councillor Leigh Geddes asked that thanks be recorded to the Public Buildings Working Group for progressing these matters so effectively.
  - c) Councillor Stewart Blackmore commented that the whole Salisbury Gardens project was a really good example of the two Councils working together.
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### 92/15 VENTNOR LIBRARY CONSULTATION

- a) The Major introduced this item to focus on whether the Town Council would make a corporate response to the consultation about the proposal for Ventnor Library's change to a Community Supported Library with only one member of staff and a reduction to 21 hours.
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- b) Councillor Harry Rees said that a corporate response was certainly needed and noted that there was time to develop it as the consultation is open to 6 September.
  - c) Councillor Tony Marvin made the point that a professional library service requires paid professional staff, which prompted a discussion of the level of qualification and related remuneration required.
  - d) Councillor Brian Lucas reported that the general experience nationally has been that libraries run by volunteers fail in the longer term.

**It was proposed by Councillor Harry Rees, seconded by Councillor Leigh Geddes and resolved that:**

the Town Clerk is asked to prepare a case for Ventnor Library remaining one of the Island's Main Public Libraries along with Newport, Ryde and Sandown on the basis of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment of the Town by the Public Health Service for consideration at the Town Council Meeting of 10 August 2015.

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#### **93/15 No. 31 Bus**

- a) The Mayor summarised recent discussions about the future viability of the 31 Bus service remarking that at 9,000 passengers a year it is the most popular of all the Island's Community Bus services.
- b) Councillor Delian Backhouse Fry said that people in St Lawrence are unhappy about the absence of any afternoon service.
- c) Councillor Harry Rees suggested that it would be sensible to distribute the service's timetable to local Agencies such as General Practitioners.
- d) Councillor Steve Stubbings told the meeting that, any community buses have very low take-up and the Town Council deserves credit for developing such a successful service.
- e) Councillor Brian Lucas said that signage on the Minibus will make a real difference and went on to comment on the value of the fact that a community bus service involves more than transport and includes support for passengers.

**It was proposed by Councillor Harry Rees, seconded by Councillor Stewart Blackmore and unanimously resolved that:**

- i) a single fare of £2.50 per journey and £3 per return journey be introduced from 1 October 2015;
  - ii) the purchase and installation to the Bus of an appropriate ticketing machine be approved;
  - iii) the development and purchase of suitable signage for the Bus be approved; and
  - iv) the revised route and timetable attached to this report be submitted to the Traffic Commissioners.
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#### **94/15 CHURCH VIEW**

- a) The Mayor introduced this item that had been prompted by an email from the Isle of Wight Council's Senior Estates Surveyor inviting comment from the Town Council on its proposals for maximising the value of the land on which the now vacant Church View building stands through a planning application for five residential units.
- a) Councillor Ed Gouge that that too many public buildings disappearing into flat and the Mayor added that although residential development is the way to go it needs to be in a strategic context.
- b) Councillor Ed Gouge agreed and urged that a holistic view needed to be taken of the whole site including Police house.
- c) Councillor Harry Rees drew attention to the growing concern about the increase in second homes in the town.

**It was unanimously resolved that:**

comment on the proposals be left to the Town Council's Planning Committee as and when applications are presented.

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**E SMOKE FREE POLICY**

- a) Prompted by a request from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire for a copy of the Town Council’s Smoke Free Policy, a draft was attached to Report 66/15.
- b) In discussion it was agreed to combine paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3 of the draft.

**It was unanimously resolved that:**  
the Smoke Free Policy attached to report, 66/5 for this meeting as amended be formally adopted.

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**96/15 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 reported that IWALC’s Annual General Meeting will be held this Thursday.
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**97/15 TOWN CLERKS’ REPORT**

- a) The Town Clerks report – 67/15 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions.
  - b) It included sections on beach cleaning, images of Ventnor’s past, Regional Timebanking, Survey Responses and Green Room use.
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**PUBLIC FORUM**

- a) The Chair re-opened the Public Forum.
  - b) The Treasurer of Friends of Ventnor Library expressed concerns about the extent of the refurbishment needed by the Library building.
  - c) The Chair of Ventnor Enhancement Fund referred to its work brightening up the town and expressed concern about the state of some buildings such as the Bus Station and La Venness. Councillor Steve Stubbings said that the delays with the latter has been due to disputes between owners but enforcement action is now in process.
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**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.40PM**

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SIGNED BY THE MAYOR	DATE

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