



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

ST MARGARET'S HALL

7PM

12 JANUARY 2015

## MEMBERS PRESENT

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

## 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.

### 1/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Harry Rees and Delian Backhouse-Fry.

### 2/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Steve Stubbings declared an interest as a County Councillor.

### 3/15 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 12 December 2014, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meetings of 16 December 2014 and 8 January 2015 were received.

### 4/15 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance report for this meeting (1/15) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 December 2014 and a list of payments made during December 2014.
- 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 nine months of 2014/15 of £24,661 against Budget.
- c) It was noted that the payments in November of £44,370 included the payment of the seventh invoice from D N Associates Ltd for their work on Salisbury Gardens in a total of £18,416 including £3,069 reclaimable VAT.
- d) It was also 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.

### 5/15 BUDGET SETTING

- a) Report 2/15 set out a proposed process for setting the Town Council's Budget and Precept for 2015/16 to comply with the Isle of Wight Council's request to be informed of Precept requirements by 18 February.

- b) Following an informal meeting of Members on 6 January it is proposed to include the matter in the Annual Consultation Meeting on 26 January before a formal decision at the Town Council meeting of 9 February.

**It was unanimously resolved that:**  
the process be adopted as presented.

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#### **6/15 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS BASIS**

- a) A change in the basis of the preparation of the Town Council's Annual Accounts is required as a consequence of both receipts and payments during the financial year 2014/15 being in excess of £200,000.
  - b) The consequences of that change were identified in Report 3/15, introduced by the Clerk and discussed briefly
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#### **7/15 YOUTH OFFER PROGRAMME**

- a) The Mayor introduced this item, summarising the achievement of the Town Council's programme during its first quarter and describing the contributions of the three partner organisations in delivering the activities identified in Report 4/15.
  - b) The Report also included information on the financial arrangements for the Programme.
  - c) Councillor Steve Stubbings asked that reports on the partners' contributions be included from time to time on Town Council meeting Agendas and the Clerk agreed to arrange for that to be the case.
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#### **8/15 OUR PLACE PROGRAMME**

- a) The formal feedback on the Town Council's Draft Operational Plan's examination as a case study at last month's Peer Review Challenge Event in London on 4 December was attached to Report 5/15 for Members' information.
  - b) In introducing the Report the Clerk commented on the major contribution of the Town Council's Economic Development Officer Nicky Cox had made to the submitted plan and how effectively Nicky Cox and the Mayor had responded to the hour long examination of the Plan as one of the case studies in the Peer Review Challenge event in London on 4 December, the feedback from which was attached to the Report.
  - c) Councillor Brian Lucas said that he was keen to see the programme move on to focus clearly on the specific projects the Vision Groups had identified.
  - d) Councillor Steve Stubbings added that the complexity and ambition of the Plan properly reflected the multiplicity of problems the town needed to address and stressed the importance of continuing to recognise their gravity.
  - d) The Report also identified the next steps during the final stage of the programme ending with the submission of the completed Plan at the end of February.
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#### **9/15 VENTNOR CENTRAL**

- a) Members noted the information in Report 6/15 about the Fire Risk Assessment for the building and the initial indications of the costs of addressing the issues raised.
  - b) The Clerk reported that a copy of the Fire Risk Assessment had been supplied to the Isle of Wight Council at their request.
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#### **10/15 SALISBURY GARDENS**

- a) Councillor Jim Toogood introduced this item, reporting that only final snagging now remained to be completed in the building and that he was very pleased with the progress and standards of the major refurbishment and reconfiguration project that had transformed the building and secured its long-term future.
  - b) He added that the process of securing planning permission for the three cycle racks the Police required – and for which they would reimburse the costs – was underway.
  - c) Councillor Steve Stubbings commented on the financial information contained in Report 7/15
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for this meeting, welcoming the encouraging indications that at current rent levels the operational costs would not only be met but a surplus generated for future investment.

- d) Councillor Ken Knapman asked how the other equipment required for the community areas of the Green Room would be financed and the Clerk replied that in addition to the Coastal Communities Fund £95,000 grant towards the building works, both the My Life a Full Life Programme and Southern Housing Group had committed to funding those items.
- e) Councillor Stewart Blackmore commented that the Town Council could be very proud of this very successful project with all its potential for benefit to the town.
- f) Councillor Brian Lucas highlighted its already important role in bringing other businesses into the town.
- g) Councillor Steve Stubbings thanked the County Press for its excellent and welcome coverage of the project in its edition of 9 January 2015.

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#### 11/15 PUTTING GREEN

- a) In further discussions with the Isle of Wight Council following the Town Council's consideration of the future of the Putting Green in the private session of its meeting of 12 December 2014 the Clerk reported that only one of the two options was acceptable to the principal authority.
- b) Report 8/15 summarised the background and confirmed that the Isle of Wight Council is willing to provide a 5-year lease to the Town Council at an Annual Rent of £3,000 on the basis of the Heads of Terms previously considered.

**It was unanimously resolved that the Town Council:**

- i) delegates authority for agreement to a Lease reflecting the attached Heads of Terms to the Town Clerk advised by the Public Buildings Working Group and on the basis of the signatures of the Mayor and Town Clerk; and
- ii) agrees to the subsequent appointment of Jackie and Richard Tiller as its operators on the basis of a Management Agreement to the end of the 2019 season.

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#### 12/15 ISLE OF WIGHT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (IWALC)

In the absence of Councillor Harry Rees, no report was available on this occasion.

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#### 13/15 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

- a) The Town Clerks report – 9/15 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions.
- b) Councillor Steve Stubbings declared an interest in the Flowersbrook item of the Report
- c) It included thanks to Evelyn Knowles for her three years' voluntary commitment to posting the Town Council's notices on the Central Car Park Noticeboard, arrangements for consideration of the Planning Application affecting Flowersbrook, the Health Visitor Team visit to Salisbury Gardens and two appointments for the Town Clerk.

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#### • PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Chair re-opened the Public Forum.
- b) A member of the public asked for clarification of the process to responding to the Planning Application for the development in Flowers brook.

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**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8:20PM**

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SIGNED BY THE MAYOR	DATE