



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

ST MARGARET'S HALL

7PM

19 MAY 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

NO. SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Mayor opened the Public Forum with 4 members of the public present.
- b) A member of the public asked about progress with the Community Right to Challenge in respect of the town's car parks and the Mayor responded that discussions were still ongoing.

65/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Harry Rees and Terry Gibbs.

66/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Steve Stubbings declared an interest as a County Councillor and in particular in Agenda items 8 & 9

Councillor Stewart Blackmore declared an interest in item 10 as Chair of the Ventnor Branch of the Royal British Legion

67/14 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meetings of 14 April 2014 and of the Annual Town Council Meeting and of the Annual Town Meeting, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meeting of 22 April 2014 were received.

68/14 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance report for this meeting (34/14) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 30 April 2014 and a list of payments made during April 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 for the first month of £339 against Budget.
- c) In view of the traditionally high level of receipts in the first month of the year, a list of the items making up the £217,756 was also attached to the Report.
- d) It was noted that the Town Council was also holding a total of £78,050 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.

69/14 ANNUAL RETURN

The Annual Return for the financial year 2012/13 had been previously circulated to Members and was included in the papers for this meeting.

It was unanimously resolved that:

the Annual Return for the financial year 2012/13 be accepted as presented and the Mayor be authorised to sign it accordingly.

70/14 SALISBURY GARDENS

- a) Report 36/14 summarised developments since the last meeting.
 - b) The start date of 21 May for the building programme was welcomed as was the information that the Town Council's offices can remain within the building during the works.
 - c) It was noted that the issue of a start date for the building programme has enabled the completion and submission of the final pre-project paperwork related to the Coastal Communities Fund £95,000 grant towards the works consisting of a *Starting the Grant* form, a *Tender Review Report* and a *Tender Confirmation* form.
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71/14 OUR PLACE! PROGRAMME

- a) The developments with the Our Place! programme since the April Town Council meeting were summarised in Report 37/14 for this meeting.
- b) The positive responses from Agencies committing to support for the programme was welcomed and the Town Clerk reported that letters of support had now increased from the six mentioned in the Report to 12.

It was unanimously resolved that:

the Town Clerk, advised by the Community Development Working Group meeting of 21 May and after receiving comments from Members on the next draft, be authorised to submit the Development Strategy documentation to Locality.

72/14 YOUTH OFFER

- a) The Commissioning Prospectus for Youth Service activities issued by Community Action Isle of Wight following through from the Isle of Wight Council's Executive decisions at its April meeting about future funding of the Service were summarised in Report 38/14.
- b) Councillor Steve Stubbings suggested that the Town Council might facilitate a meeting of local organisations involved in youth work in the town and ensure they are fully informed of the potential for funding support.
- c) Councillor Brian Lucas concurred, drawing attention to the significance of buildings in this respect and the Town Council's role in facilitating that.

It was unanimously resolved that:

the Town Clerks be asked to convene a meeting of interested Members and local organisations involved in the provision of youth related activities to discuss the Youth Offer.

73/14 MARKET STREET TOILETS

- a) The future of the closed Market Street toilets was discussed following the Isle of Wight Council's request for clarification as to whether Ventnor Town Council has any interest in taking the building over, given their intention otherwise to re-advertise it with planning permission for four flats.
 - b) Councillor Jim Toogood said he felt that the Town Council is not in a position to fund the takeover and maintenance of the building.
 - c) Councillor Brian Lucas commented on the interest in the town about the future of the toilets and that he would like to see an estimate of the costs of taking on the building and the costs of running them before making a decision.
 - d) Councillor Leigh Geddes said that although she understood the interest and reason for more toilet provision, Market Street was not an appropriate location for them.
 - e) Councillor Tony Marvin said he agreed with that and that only a small number of people in
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the town would support funding of their re-opening and ongoing maintenance.

It was resolved with one abstention that:

in view of the cost of purchase, maintenance, and operation and location the Isle of Wight Council be informed that Ventnor Town Council has no further interest in this toilet building.

74/14 WAR MEMORIAL

- a) The Town Clerk raised the matter of the funding available for improvements to the base of the War Memorial, drawing attention to the fact that these needed to be completed before the start of significant events around it from 3 August this year.
- b) Councillor Ed Gouge said that the joint committee had been meeting regularly to arrange an event on 3 August and gave some details of the plans for it. He said they were also interested in working with the library towards an exhibition showing the effects of the war on the town.

It was unanimously resolved that:

authority to commission and complete the works to the base of the War Memorial be delegated to the Town Clerk advised by Councillor Jim Toogood and that the Ventnor Branch of the Royal British Legion be consulted about them.

75/14 IWALC REPORT

- a) Councillor Ken Knapman deputised for Councillor Harry Rees in reporting on attendance at the recent Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils addressed by the Isle of Wight Council's Leader Ian Stephens.
 - b) He said that significant questions were asked about Cowes Enterprise College and Island Roads' performance and that Councillor Harry Rees had reported on the latest developments in Assisted Area Status and his disappointed that the whole Island had not been included with insufficient weight being given to the Island's case for European funding.
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76/14 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

The report from the Town Clerks – 41/14 – provided information about the Botanic Gardens work, the Feel Good Ventnor initiative, a new Memorial Bench, the painting of the Ventnor Sign on the West Cliff and the new Lowtherville Noticeboard.

Councillor Leigh Geddes supplied more detail about the work with the Botanic Gardens' team.

PUBLIC FORUM

The Mayor re-opened the Public Forum.

Fay Hewitt Brown's contribution to the town's life was mentioned by Members and the Town Clerk and Members unanimously recorded their appreciation of the unique contribution she had made with her remarkable collection of historically significant record of the town and her enthusiastic sharing of it with others.

77/14 EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

In view of the confidential nature of the following items:

it was resolved under the Public Bodies Admissions to Meetings (1960) Act: to exclude the Public and Press whilst the next items are under discussion as they are of a confidential nature.

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE
