



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

ST MARGARET'S HALL

7PM

9 JUNE 2014

## MEMBERS PRESENT

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

## NO. SUBJECT

### PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Mayor opened the Public Forum with 2 members of the public present.
- b) A member of the public asked about the absence of birds in the Aviary in Ventnor Park. Councillor Steve Stubbings responded that the Aviary was being closed down as part of the Isle of Wight Council budget reductions.

### 79/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

### 80/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Steve Stubbings declared an interest as a County Councillor.

### 81/14 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meetings of 19 May 2014, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meeting of 20 May 2014 were received.

### 82/14 ST CATHERINE'S CHURCH GROUNDS

- a) At the Mayor's invitation, David Tamcken gave a short presentation of the current plans for the grounds of St Catherine's Church.
- b) David said that his purpose was to update Members from the earlier presentation of several years ago.
- c) He pointed out that other than apart from Spring Hill there is no other green space in the town centre suitable for events and relaxation which the grounds of St Catherine's could provide.
- d) Part of the reason for the development is that close up the graveyard is falling into disarray with neglected graves and vandalised headstones. He stressed that the Memorial Garden would remain as it is now and that there would be no parking allowed on any area where burials had taken place and no internments are being disturbed.
- e) Everything to the West of the entrance will become a grassed area and differentiated paving will distinguish between walking and parking areas.
- f) A record has been made of the exact location of every headstone and a record is being made of everything that is written on every headstone being removed. Headstones can be stored or, where messages are no longer legible, laid flat as a feature within the garden.
- g) Public announcements of the proposed movements of headstones will be made in early July. Architects plans will be available at an open day on 5 July and the Architect will be present to answer questions.
- h) The Mayor thanked David Tamcken for his presentation.

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#### 83/14 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance report for this meeting (43/14) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 May 2014 and a list of payments made during May 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 overspend over the first months of £603 against Budget.
- c) The report included a reference to the authority given by minute 50/13 of the Town Council Meeting of 15 April 2013 for the arrangement of an HSBC Credit Card to be used for on-line purchases and a linked proposal that this arrangement be put in place at a credit limit of £2,500.
- 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 and a limit of £2,500 be set for the HSBC Credit Card to facilitate on-line purchases with balances to be cleared monthly.

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#### 84/14 SALISBURY GARDENS

- a) Report 44/14 summarised developments since the last meeting.
- b) It was noted that the building programme had started as planned on 21 May and the extensive electrical works began on 2 June.
- c) The required additional works identified and quoted for by the main contractor as set out in the Report were discussed in relation to the value of securing other quotations as compared with the interruption and delay of the building progress such a process would inevitably cause.
- d) Members heard that Councillor Jim Toogood was confident that the quoted costs were reasonable.

**It was unanimously resolved that:**

the additional costs identified in the report be approved

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#### 85/14 OUR PLACE! PROGRAMME

- a) The developments with the Our Place! programme since the April Town Council meeting were summarised in Report 45/14 for this meeting.
  - b) The Town Clerk reported that the Department for Communities and Local Government has signed off on the Town Council's Development Strategy and Locality has confirmed that the Town Council now qualifies for the £10,000 Getting Going grant and has also been awarded the £7,000 Going Further Grant.
  - c) In addition, the Town Council has been included in the group of areas that will be considered for a possible addition £20,000 *Breaking New Ground* grant later in the year.
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#### 86/14 YOUTH OFFER

- a) The background to the Isle of Wight Council's proposals for funding a third sector delivered youth offer following their decision to end the current arrangements on 30 September were summarised in Report 45/14 for the meeting.
- b) Attached to the Report were copies of a letter from the Town Clerk to the Area Director of Children's Services expressing the Town Council's concerns about the process and his response to them.

**It was unanimously resolved that:**

discussion of this matter be continued in the Private Agenda due to the sensitivity of the matters

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to be discussed as set out in the report for Agenda Item 15.

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#### **87/14 POSTER BOARDS**

- a) The offer from Ventnor Fringe to manage the town's 18 poster Boards on the Town Council's behalf if the Council was able to take over responsibility for them from the Isle of Wight Council was welcomed.
- b) The Town Clerk reported that in email correspondence the Isle of Wight Council had indicated that they had no objection in principle to that change and were willing to discuss the details of it.
- c) Councillor Terry Gibbs welcomed the opportunity the development would provide to give the Boards a clear corporate identity.

**It was unanimously resolved to:**

- i) authorise the Town Clerk to continue discussions with the Isle of Wight Council for the transfer of responsibility for the maintenance and use of the 18 Boards to the Town Council and report back to a future meeting of the Town Council; and
  - ii) ask Councillor Jim Toogood, to estimate the costs of the necessary upgrade of the Boards and bring proposals for it to the same meeting.
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#### **88/14 NAVITUS BAY WIND FARM**

- a) Councillor Ed Gouge introduced this item with a summary of the development of the Navitus Bay Wind Farm Project and the consultation process for it.
- b) He said that it would be visible from Ventnor on high ground with the potential to develop up to 120 jobs and make a major contribution to the Island's energy needs.
- c) As these developments are no longer dealt with through normal planning processes but referred to the Planning Inspectorate who may offer an opportunity for comment, it is necessary to register an interest by 23 June in order to be able provide comments on the proposals in due course.
- d) Councillor Ken Knapman said it was important to keep open the opportunity to comment on the proposals at the appropriate time. Councillor Brian Lucas said that it would be important for the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils (IWALC) to take a view on it and be prepared to be involved with it.
- e) Councillor Steve Stubbings pointed out that the stage had not yet been reached when what exactly the benefits and dis-benefits of the scheme are.

**It was unanimously resolved that:**

the Town Council register with the Inspector who will investigate the Development Consent Order and asks the Town Clerk to encourage IWALC to register also.

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#### **89/14 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT**

The report from the Town Clerks – 48/14 – provided information about the latest meeting with Ventnor Business Association, the installation of a new memorial bench, the car parking consultation, Timebank's 'Bring & Fixit' event, the Defibulator training, the Feel Good Ventnor Launch, the Devolved Services Meeting and the Clerk's contribution to the National Association of Local Councils' Conference on *Making Localism Work*.

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#### **PUBLIC FORUM**

The Mayor re-opened the Public Forum.

There were no comments or questions from the public at this time,

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#### **90/14 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**

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exclude the Public and Press whilst the next item is under discussion as it is of a confidential nature.

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SIGNED BY THE MAYOR	DATE