



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

ST MARGARET'S HALL

7PM

11 AUGUST 2014

## MEMBERS PRESENT

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

## No. SUBJECT

### PUBLIC FORUM

- a) Councillor Steve Stubbings referred to the sad news of the death of the wife of Councillor Harry Rees and went on to say that Councillor Harry Rees had made an invaluable contribution to the work of Ventnor Town Council and that he was sure all his colleagues joined in looking forward to his return to active engagement as soon as possible.
- b) The Mayor opened the Public Forum with 4 members of the public present.
- c) Wendy Marshall referred to the fact that the bunting in the town is now looking very faded and asked that its replacement be considered.
- d) There were no other questions or comments at this time.

### 107/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Harry Rees.

### 108/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Steve Stubbings declared an interest as a County Councillor.

### 109/14 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 14 July 2014, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meeting of 22 July 2014 received.
- c) The Confidential Minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting of 7 August 2014 were received.

### 110/14 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance report for this meeting (60/14) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 July 2014 and a list of payments made during July 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 four months of 2014/15 of £5,260 against Budget.
- c) It was noted that the increased level of spend in July reflected the payment of the second invoice from D N Associates Ltd for their work on Salisbury Gardens in a total of £51,918 including £8,656 reclaimable VAT.
- d) The report also recorded two significant receipts on 1 August, the day after the reporting date for this meeting: the £69,171 reclaimed from the Coastal Communities Fund in relation to the Salisbury Garden's works and the £150,000 loan from the Public Works Load Board.
- e) 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.

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**It was unanimously resolved that:**  
the Finance Report be accepted.

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**111/14 SALISBURY GARDENS**

- a) Report 61/14 summarised developments since the last meeting in respect of the refurbishment programme, the lease and the dates that tenants are now expected to occupy their designated rooms.
- b) Council Jim Toogood said that the building works programme is progressing well with all the fire doors having been replaced and the additional works found to be necessary were all being addressed to ensure a clear and dry building for the long term.
- c) Councillor Steve Stubbings raised the issue of the additional costs and the possibility of renegotiating the rent as the costs of necessary refurbishment works had been much higher than could have been predicted.
- d) Councillor Jim Toogood confirmed that this was indeed the case and that given the condition before the works started the building could neither have been commercially rented nor demolished.

**It was unanimously resolved that:**

the Clerk be instructed to continue negotiations with the Isle of Wight Council to extend the rent free period to take account of the additional costs.

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**112/14 OUR PLACE! PROGRAMME**

- a) The developments with the Our Place programme since the July Town Council meeting were summarised in Report 62/14 for this meeting.
  - b) Councillor Ken Knapman said that he found the Agencies' Day very informative and that it had been effective in forming closer links between the six Agencies presenting during the day and the Vision Groups.
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**113/14 YOUTH SERVICE**

- a) The Town Clerk provided an update on developments with the Town Council's application to the Youth Offer Prospectus Funding in Report 63/14 for this meeting.
  - b) Confirmation that the application, in a total of £86,833 for work in the period 1 October 2014 to 31 March 2017, was welcomed and the addition of two fully funded posts of a 20-hour a week Youth Opportunities Officer and a 6-hour a week Sessional Youth Worker was noted.
  - c) Councillor Jim Toogood said how impressive was the programme for Ventnor Fringe and their involvement as one of the three partner organisations alongside the Town Council in the application was very positive.
  - d) The Mayor explained the highly significant contribution to the opportunities available to the town's young people the project would make.
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**114/14 APPRENTICE APPOINTMENT**

- a) The Town Council considered Minute 9 of the Staffing Committee meeting of Thursday 7 August 2014 containing the resolution that:  
the Town Council be recommended to:  
agree to the establishment of one apprenticeship post in the area of Business Administration from 1 October 2014 at its meeting of Monday 11 August 2014.
- b) Report 64/14 summarised the reasons for that recommendation.
- c) Councillor Ken Knapman said this represented a really important step for the Town Council and Councillor Steve Stubbings as Chair of Staffing Committee for that meeting said that he took pleasure in presenting the proposal to the Town Council.

**It was unanimously resolved that:**

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the Town Council accepts the resolution of its Staffing Committee meeting of 7 August 2014 and agrees to the establishment of an Apprenticeship post in Business Administration from 1 October 2014.

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#### **115/14 BEACH CLEANING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES**

- a) Outcomes from recent Island-wide meetings in which the Head of Recreation, Leisure and Public Spaces Alex Minns outlined the options facing Town and Parish Councils following the decision of the Isle of Wight Council to cease funding these services on 31 March 2015 were set out in Report 66/14.
  - b) Councillor Brian Lucas asked what will happen if some Town and Parish Councils refuse to contribute to the proposed Island-wide funding by all Town and Parish Councils of either or both of these services.
  - c) Councillor Tony Marvin said that it would be important for the Town Council to explore alternative arrangements.
  - d) Councillor Jim Toogood stressed how important it was for these services to be properly tendered and monitored.
  - e) Councillor Tony Marvin commented that it was hard to see how the Isle of Wight Council appeared to be proposing to pass the costs of Parks to the Town and Parish Councils while retaining all income from them.
  - f) Councillor Steve Stubbings said that the Isle of Wight Council had a strong commitment to try to retain the funding of the Principal Parks alongside some re-designation of which are or are not Principal Parks.
  - g) Councillor Jim Toogood expressed his disappointment at the poor quality of the planting of the Cascades this year.
  - h) It was agreed to await the correspondence Alex Minns was due to send to all Town and Parish Councils on both these services in the near future before making decisions.
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#### **116/14 LETTER RE UNDERCLIFF DRIVE**

- a) Councillor Terry Gibbs introduced this item reporting comments from St Lawrence residents about the contrast between the Government's recent decision to grant up to £2m to repair the damage to Eastbourne Pier given its impact on the town's tourism and the absence of any assistance for the serious damage caused by the landslip in St Lawrence.
- b) He proposed that a letter based on the draft previously circulated to Members be sent to the Minister for High Streets and Coastal Communities, Penny Mordaunt.

**It was unanimously resolved that:**  
the letter as amended is sent.

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#### **117/14 WAR MEMORIAL COMMEMORATION EVENT**

- a) Councillor Tony Marvin proposed that the Town Council record a Vote of Thanks to Ventnor British Legion WW1 Commemoration Committee congratulating them on their very successful event of Sunday 3 August.
- c) He said that a lot of work had been done by the Committee, on which the Town Council was represented, to make that possible.
- d) The Mayor said he had found the event a credit to the town and the silence within the service very moving. Councillor Blackmore endorsed those comments.

**It was unanimously resolved that:**

- i) the Town Council records its appreciation of the Ventnor British Legion WW1 Commemoration Committee's organisation of the very successful commemoration event at the War Memorial on Sunday 3 August in a formal Vote of Thanks; and
  - ii) asks the Town Clerk to write to the Chair of the Committee accordingly.
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**118/14 SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS TEAM MEETING**

- a) Councillor Tony Marvin reported on his initial meeting with the South Wight Safer Communities police team.
- b) He said that the whole team had had been present in the building. One outcome was that the Town Council's web site coverage had been updated and included a link to the Hampshire Police web site where access to local crime reports was available.

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**119/14 ISLE OF WIGHT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (IWALC)**

- a) Councillor Ken Knapman reported that IWALC had re-elected a smaller Finance Committee of just 9 members for the coming year and that Councillor Harry Rees and Councillor Ken Knapman are members of it.
- b) He also reported on the discussion of Beach Cleaning and Assisted Areas Status at the meeting.
- c) The next Executive meeting will have an external speaker on Dementia friendly towns.

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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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| SIGNED BY THE MAYOR | DATE |
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