



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

ST MARGARET'S HALL

7PM

13 JANUARY 2014

## MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors: Steve Stubbings (Mayor), Jason Mack, Leigh Geddes, Harry Rees, Stewart Blackmore, Ken Knapman, Tony Marvin, Ed Gouge.

County Councillor Graham Perks was also present.

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## NO. SUBJECT

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### PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Mayor opened the Public Forum with 6 members of the public present.
- b) A member of the public asked about progress with the Winter Gardens. The Mayor confirmed that the agreement required the project to be either completed or substantially in progress by July 2014.

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### 1/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brian Lucas and Jim Toogood.

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### 2/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Mayor declared an interest as a County Councillor.  
Councillor Stewart Blackmore declared an interest in Agenda item 7.  
Councillors Ed Gouge and Tony Marvin also declared an interest in Agenda item 7.  
Councillor Harry Rees declared an interest as Chair of Ventnor Social Club.

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### 3/14 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 9 December 2013, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meetings of 17 December 2013 and 7 January 2014 were received.

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### 4/14 BRITISH LEGION EVENT

- a) Frank Hunt of the British Legion, at the invitation of the Mayor, outlined the Legion's plans for a special event on 4 August 2014 at the War Memorial.
- b) He said that the reason for attendance was to inform the Town Council of the Legion's intention to commemorate the commencement of the First World War by the rededication of the town's War Memorial on 4 August 2014, as set out in a paper provided to this meeting.
- c) The Ventnor Branch were keen to invite the Town Council to be a partner in support of the Event which they intended to generate widespread interest in and support for.
- d) The Mayor congratulated Frank Hunt on the quality of the report he had provided.
- e) In response to a question Frank Hunt confirmed that there would indeed be other events throughout the period of the War but this was intended as a major launch for that programme.

#### **It was unanimously resolved that**

The Town Council formally and fully supports the Ventnor Branch of the British Legion in the development of this event and appoints Councillors Ed Gouge and Harry Rees to join the

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Legion's Working Party responsible for it.

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**5/14 FINANCE REPORT**

- a) The Finance report for this meeting (1/14) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 December 2013 and a list of payments made during December 2013.
- b) An accompanying paper set out expenditure in relation to the Budget lines for the year to 31 December 2013 with variances from year-to-date budget provision.

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

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**6/14 SALISBURY GARDENS**

- a) Report 2/14 for this meeting provided an update on developments since the last meeting in respect of the future management of Salisbury Gardens.
  - b) Councillor Stewart Blackmore expressed his pleasure at the progress that was being made.
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**7/14 VENTNOR BOXING CLUB**

- a) As he was unable to attend this meeting, Councillor Brian Lucas had provided an account – circulated as Report 3/14 - of progress with the initiative to retain the Club's current venue for their continued use.
- b) His report was welcomed by Members.

**It was unanimously resolved that:**  
the Town Council thanks Councillor Brian Lucas for his work on this important matter.

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**8/14 MEETING SCHEDULE**

Report 4/14 set out the dates for the routine meetings of the Town Council for the 2014 Calendar year.

**It was unanimously resolved that:**  
the dates set out in the report be adopted.

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**9/14 ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE**

- a) The Town Clerk reported that the Town Council's nominations of Ventnor Library, Ventnor Youth Centre and St Boniface School as Assets of Community Value had been accepted by the Isle of Wight Council.
  - b) He confirmed that they had been added to that Council's official listing of Assets of Community Value available on its web site.
  - c) It was agreed that the Public Buildings Working Group be asked to keep under review the need for other buildings in the town to be nominated for inclusion on the list.
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**10/14 COMMUNITY RIGHT TO CHALLENGE**

- a) As no response had been received from the Isle of Wight Council to the Town Council's Expression of Interest for the local management of the town's car parks within the 3-month time scale designated in its policy for applications under the Community Right to Challenge, both the Town Clerk and the Mayor had emailed the Head of Procurement to clarify progress on it.
  - b) An assurance had been received that the decision would be made available very soon.
  - c) The background to the process was summarised in Report 6/14 for this meeting.
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**11/14 IWALC REPORT**

- a) Councillor Harry Rees reported on recent developments in the work of the Isle of Wight
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Association of Local Councils.

- b) He said that he had attended two more Overview & Scrutiny Committee meetings. He confirmed that he had IWALC support for continuing the campaign for Assisted Area Status.
  - c) He expressed his disappointment that the whole Island had not been included in the recently published draft map for Assisted Area Status and that was shared by other Members and at the continued failure for the Island to be classified as a Island rather than treated as a combination of land-locked wards as part of Hampshire.
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#### **12/14 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT**

- a) The report from the Town Clerks – 7/14 – provided information about Christmas in Ventnor, Fitness Classes, the Isle of Wight Council Budget, the 9-5 Project, the Annual Consultation event and use of Social Media.
  - b) The Town Clerk added that a funding application in support of the Town Council's Community Development Work in 2014/15 has being submitted to Southern Housing Group this week.
  - c) Councillor Ken Knapman thanked all those responsible for the Christmas in Ventnor Event
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#### **PUBLIC FORUM**

The Mayor re-opened the Public Forum

- a) Maureen Cawley reported on VEF's work in clearing out Flowers Brook and their success in getting some funding from Southern Water towards the project.
  - b) The Mayor welcomed County Councillor Graham Perks to the meeting and invited him to report on his work to this or any future meeting of the Town Council.
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THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.02PM

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SIGNED BY THE MAYOR	DATE