



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

ST MARGARET'S HALL

7PM

15 JULY 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

NO. SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Mayor opened the Public Forum with 8 members of the public present.
 - b) Wendy reported that Flowersbrook had been litter picked as well as litter picking the landslip car park on a daily early morning basis.
 - c) A member of the public mentioned that the back of Ventnor Gateway sign at the top of Leeson Road sign needs cleaning.
-

93/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Chris Welsford, Harry Rees and Tony Marvin.

Apologies for absence were also received from County Councillor Graham Perks.

The Mayor welcomed Councillor Ed Gouge to his first meeting.

94/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Mayor declared an interest as a County Councillor.

95/13 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 17 June 2013, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
 - b) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meeting of 3 July 2013 were received.
-

96/13 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance report for this meeting had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 30 June 2013 and a list of payments made during June 2013.
- b) An accompanying paper set out expenditure in relation to the Budget lines for the year to 30 June 2013 with variances from year-to-date budget provision.
- c) The paper included a request to the Town Council for an increase in the daily limit for Internet Banking from the £5,000 set several years ago to £7,500.

It was unanimously resolved that:

- i) the Finance Report be accepted; and
 - ii) the daily credit limit for Internet Banking payments be reset to £7,500.
-

97/13 LOCALISM UPDATE

- a) Report 51/13 for this meeting provided a summary of the current position in respect of the Coastal Centre and Rew Valley Sports Centre and proposed a new stage in community engagement.
 - b) The Mayor endorsed the report, expressing his strong commitment to localism and the
-

-
- essential linked community engagement.
- c) Councillor Stewart Blackmore endorsed the importance of the localism agenda and the essential element of community engagement in it.
 - d) Councillor Ken Knapman welcomed the emphasis on participative democracy as set out in the accompanying essay on Connected Localism as an exciting experiment in ongoing community engagement. He said that alternative service delivery was especially important in view of the increasingly limited resources available to principal authorities.
 - e) Councillor Brian Lucas stressed the importance of being completely honest with residents about how valued services will have to be funded and a test of the willingness of residents to see increases in the local precept as necessary.
 - f) Councillor Ed Gouge supported the proposal for the extended consultation proposed in the paper and asked about the contribution of social networking to those processes.
 - g) Councillor Leigh Geddes asked if other Town & Parish Councils on the Island are responding to the localism agenda. The Mayor responded positively that in his role he had invitations to several other Town Councils to explore the potential for them of engaging with it.
 - h) Councillor Jim Toogood endorsed Councillor Brian Lucas's comment about the importance of being able to fund the local projects and developments.

It was unanimously resolved that:

the Mayor be authorised to write to each person who contributed to the recent consultation on the future of the Coastal Centre to thank them for doing so and inviting them to provide an email address through which they can be directly involved in future priority and policy development.

98/13 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Toogood, in his role as Chair of the Town Council's Planning Committee, proposed that Councillor Ed Gouge be appointed as a member of the Town Council's Planning Committee.

It was unanimously resolved that:

Councillor Ed Gouge be appointed a member of the Town Council's Planning Committee.

99/13 WESTMINSTER DAY

- a) The Ventnor Business Association's involvement in the plans for an Island Westminster Day in September arranged by Andrew Turner MP that resulted in securing a specific spot for marketing Ventnor was identified in Report 53/13 together with the proposal for a contribution of £200 from the Town Council.
- b) Councillor Jason Mack endorsed the Town Clerk's statement about the importance of the Ventnor Business Association in building on the Town Council's investment in the town centre and its traders and welcomed their commitment to collaboration with the Town Council.

It was unanimously resolved that:

a contribution of £200 be made to the costs of the Westminster Day and Jason Mack be appointed to join the delegation for the day.

100/13 NEWPORT ROAD CLOSURE

- a) The Mayor provided an update on Island Roads' plans for the extensive remedial work required on Newport Road
 - b) He wanted to be very clear that the rumours circulating today that the road was due to be closed tomorrow were absolutely untrue. He said he has been assured by Island Roads that he would be informed once the works schedule is clear.
-

101/13 WINTER GARDENS UPDATE

- a) The Mayor provided an update on the latest developments in the discussions with the Hambrough Group about the future of the Winter Gardens.
 - b) He said that the lack of progress was increasingly frustrating for the town and Isle of Wight Council officers and that a meeting had finally been arranged for Thursday of this week with Kevin Susmilch involving himself, the Portfolio Holder, the Deputy Director Environment and Tourism, the Town Clerk and Ventnor Business Association.
 - c) He confirmed that significant sums of money had already been spent by the Hambrough Group on the project but that if the meeting did not take place he would be likely to withdraw the support he had provided to date for the scheme.
 - d) Councillor Stewart Blackmore stressed the importance of security on the site that presently represents a particular hazard to children and young people.
 - e) Councillor Brian Lucas made the point that the Hambrough Group owed the town a much better and fuller response than it had offered to date.
-

102/13 NOTICE BOARDS

- a) The Town Clerk introduced Report 54/13 for this meeting with its proposals in respect of two of the town's current noticeboards.
- b) In discussions with Upper Ventnor Community Association it had been agreed to ask both parties to agree a contribution of £600 each to fund the cost of a new noticeboard in Lowtherville to replace the existing one that was no longer fit for purpose.
- c) The other proposal was a response to a request from the Ventnor & Undercliff Partnership to explore the possibility of granting permission for them to replace the existing Ventnor Map noticeboard in the western end of the Central Car Park with a map board for the new Heritage Trail the Partnership hoped to be in a position to fund following a grant application.

It was unanimously resolved that the Town Council agrees:

- i) to contribute a sum of £600 from the Community Development budget line to match fund the commitment of the Upper Ventnor Community Association for a new Lowtherville Noticeboard to be purchased and installed; and
 - ii) to authorise its Clerks to explore the possibility of replacing the current Ventnor Map Noticeboard at the western edge of the Central Car Park with a location board for the proposed new Heritage Trail.
-

103/13 POLICE LIAISON MEETING

- a) Councillor Jason Mack reported on his attendance at the latest meeting of the local liaison meeting with the Police.
 - b) He said that their priorities for Ventnor are around anti-social behaviour on the Esplanade and the town centre and noted that some involved in that behaviour are now reaching Court appearances and that appears to be acting as a deterrent to others.
 - c) He said that the police were reporting that Ventnor does not have the same level of anti-social behaviour as the other coastal towns.
 - d) The only traffic problem they had identified was the Grove Road situation that had a particular relevance for St Catherine's school in view of the refusal of drivers to comply with the local speed limits.
-

104/13 IWALC REPORT

- a) In the absence of Councillor Harry Rees, Councillor Ken Knapman, as deputy representative to IWALC who had attended the latest meeting reported on two powerpoint presentations offered on health issues. He said that the leader of the Isle of Wight Council had reported on the new Council's committed to localism and the Deputy Leader had endorsed that
-

commitment.

- b) He reported on Councillor Harry Rees's continued support for the campaign to secure Assisted Area Status in respect of European funding for the Island and his involvement in it.
-

104/13 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

- a) The report from the Town Clerks – 55/13 – provided information about the appointment of Timebank Support Staff, relationships with Island Roads, involvement in the National Association of Local Council's Conferences in London and Sheffield and the new Beach Safety Group Training Courses.
- b) Councillor Brian Lucas shared a local concern at Island Roads' inadequate treatment of verges.
- c) The Mayor said that the new administration's policy included a commitment to retain some verge areas for the protection and development of wild life.
-

PUBLIC FORUM

The Mayor re-opened the Public Forum.

- a) A member of Ventnor & the Undercliff Heritage Partnership said that evidence of residents' support for the proposed Heritage Trail was required for the funding application and asked everyone present to complete the supplied questionnaires.
- b) A town trader present at the meeting expressed concern about the impact of the repairs to Newport Road on the town's traders and the current lack of information about the length of the closure and timing of it. The Mayor responded that he would ensure traders were kept in touch with and have the opportunity to comment on, the schedule for the works once Island Roads were in a position to make their proposals public.
-

The Meeting closed at 8.25pm

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR	DATE
