



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

ST MARGARET'S HALL

7PM

9 SEPTEMBER 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

No. SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Mayor opened the Public Forum with 14 members of the public present.
- b) A member of the public asked about the unacceptable closure of the Esplanade toilet during the Bank Holiday weekend. The Assistant Town Clerk provided details of her contact with the Isle of Wight Council who had accepted responsibility for it and apologised for the failure.
- c) Councillor Harry Rees asked that concerns also be expressed in respect of the Marlborough Road toilets.
- d) Another member of the public recorded his appreciation of the Town Councillors' work in getting the derelict caravan in Lowtherville Road removed.
- e) He went on to ask about the suitability of the fence at the back of the Botanic Gardens and whether there was anything in the agreement to prevent fencing. Councillor Jim Toogood reported on a recent conversation with the owner during which it had been clearly stated that fencing was necessary to ensure collection of entrance fees.
- f) Attention was drawn to the increased amount of litter accumulating after the refuse collection days. Councillor Stewart Blackmore said that he would raise it at the next meeting of the Community Waste Group.
- g) A director of Ventnor Community Bus CiC said that he and his co-directors were willing to continue if that would be helpful in maintaining the No.31 Bus service.

121/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Leigh Geddes and Chris Welsford. Apologies were also received from County Councillor Graham Perks.

122/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Mayor declared an interest as a County Councillor.
Councillor Harry Rees declared an interest as Chair of Ventnor Social Club.

123/13 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 12 August 2013, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meetings of 14 August and 3 September 2013 were received.

124/13 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance report for this meeting had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 August 2013 and a list of payments made during August 2013.
- b) An accompanying paper set out expenditure in relation to the Budget lines for the year to 31

August 2013 with variances from year-to-date budget provision.

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

125/13 SALISBURY GARDENS

- a) Report 67/13 for this meeting provided Members with an update on developments since the last meeting in respect of the future management of Salisbury Gardens and the Town Council's role in it.
 - b) The report for the Cabinet Meeting of Tuesday 17 September 2013 on the *Possible Disposal of Salisbury Gardens Under Special Purchaser Arrangements* was noted and welcomed.
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126/13 BORROWING APPROVAL

- a) Report 68/13 for this meeting set out the reasons for requiring Borrowing Approval for an amount of £150,000.
- b) It was noted that the Town Council's previously granted Borrowing Approval in the sum of £200,000 for the now no longer relevant purchase of the Coastal Centre could not simply be transferred to the building's refurbishment and that, consequently, a new application was required under the new guidance effective from 1 April this year.

It was unanimously resolved that the Town Council:

agrees to apply through the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils for Borrowing Approval from the Department of Communities and Local Government in the sum of £150,000 repayable over 25 years for the purposes set out in Report 68/13 for this meeting.

127/13 No. 31 Bus

- a) The outcomes of the Working Group convened by Minute 115/13 of the Town Council's August meeting to consider the apparent withdrawal of the No. 31 Bus service from 30 September this year, together with subsequent discussions, were summarised in Report 69/13 for this meeting together with identified options.
- b) With the Town Council's permission, the Mayor suspended Standing Orders and invited Jim Morgan and Stuart George to join the discussions.
- c) Jim Morgan said that it was not possible to withdraw the termination notice and that in current circumstances it would only be possible to commit to a service of three days a week.
- d) Councillor Brian Lucas said that the important element was the reliability of the service rather than the number of days it ran. Jim Morgan said that the Isle of Wight Council would not be prepared to fund a service that was not reliable.
- e) The Mayor said that he understood that the Isle of Wight Council were very keen to maintain the Community Bus routes.
- f) Stuart George said he agreed with Jim Morgan but wanted to draw attention to the fact that the current substitute driver's certification expired today.
Standing Orders were reinstated.

It was unanimously resolved that:

the matter be referred back to the Working Group with a request that they advise the Town Council of further developments.

128 VENTNOR FRINGE

- a) The Mayor said that he had asked for this item to be included on the Agenda to give Members the opportunity to congratulate the organisers of a very successful event that had contributed much to the town's life.
 - b) Councillor Brian Lucas commented that this year's event had been particularly innovative as
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well as very professionally organised.

It was unanimously resolved that:

the Town Council congratulates the Ventnor Fringe Director and organising team on a highly successful event and asks the Clerk to write to them accordingly.

129/13 VENTNOR CARNIVAL

- a) The Clerk introduced the report for this item.
- b) Councillor Harry Rees said that he had been given some accounts by the Carnival Committee Treasurer and passed them to the Clerk.
- c) Councillor Stewart Blackmore said that the Carnival was one of the features of the town's life and wondered if local landlords might be prepared to consider donations.

It was unanimously resolved that:

Councillors Harry Rees, Jim Toogood, Stewart Blackmore and Ken Knapman arrange to meet with the Carnival Committee.

130/13 VTC PLUS

- a) The latest developments in the Town Council's commitment to greater democratic participation were set out in Report 71/13.
 - b) The fact that 175 residents had signed up to engagement with this new initiative was warmly welcomed and Councillor Harry Rees pointed out that it was likely that members of their families would also become involved with the conversation about future developments.
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131/13 IWALC REPORT

- a) Councillor Harry Rees reported that a further letter had now gone to the Minister in connection with Assisted Area Status and a reply had indicated that he would visit the Island soon to discuss the matter further.
 - b) Councillor Harry Rees He stressed the importance of the Island being assessed separately from Hampshire.
 - c) The Mayor thanked Councillor Harry Rees on behalf of the whole Council for his continuing work on this important matter.
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132/13 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

- a) The report from the Town Clerks – 72/13 – provided information about the start dates of the two new part-time Timebank Support Workers, the new arrangements for the operation of the Putting Green, the dates for the closure of the Beach Safety project and the Paddling Pool, the Expression of Interest in the local management of the town's car parks and the arrangements for Ventnor Community Day on 21 September.
 - b) Councillor Harry Rees said that IWALC had formally requested the return of the Lifeguarding service and that changes to the Blue Flag criteria may make that a necessity.
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PUBLIC FORUM

The Mayor re-opened the Public Forum.

133/13 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

In view of the confidential nature of the following item:

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.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.55PM

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR	DATE