



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

ST MARGARET'S HALL

7PM

14 OCTOBER 2013

## MEMBERS PRESENT

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

## NO. SUBJECT

### PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Mayor opened the Public Forum with 5 members of the public present.
- b) Wendy Marshall reported on her recent work.

### 137/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Chris Welsford and Jim Toogood.

### 138/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Mayor declared an interest as a County Councillor.

Councillor Harry Rees declared an interest as Chair of Ventnor Social Club.

### 139/13 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 9 September 2013, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meeting of 25 September 2013 were received.

### 140/13 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance report for this meeting had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 30 September 2013 and a list of payments made during September 2013.
- b) An accompanying paper set out expenditure in relation to the Budget lines for the year to 30 September 2013 with variances from year-to-date budget provision.

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

### 141/13 SALISBURY GARDENS

- a) Report 76/13 for this meeting provided Members with an update on developments since the last meeting in respect of the future management of Salisbury Gardens.
- b) Councillor Ken Knapman commented on his visit to the proposed community area and welcomed the opportunity it would provide for Community Learning.
- c) Councillor Stewart Blackmore drew attention to the fact that the costs of this project would not fall on the Precept and the Mayor confirmed that it would indeed be self-financing.

**It was unanimously resolved that the Town Council:**

- i) notes and approves the arrangements for the tender process as outlined in section 3 of this report;
- ii) appoints Councillor Brian Lucas to join the Town Clerk in the opening of received Tenders as required by Section 11 (e) of the Financial Regulations, at noon on Thursday 21

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- November; and
- iii) confirms the appointment of DCK Beavers Ltd as its Agent for VAT purposes.
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#### 142/13 OUR PLACE!

- a) Report 7/13 for this meeting provided a summary of the Department for Communities and Local Government's (DCLG) *Our Place!* Programme.
- b) The Mayor provided feedback from the DCLG Seminar on the programme that he and the Town Clerk had attended in Birmingham on Friday 11 October, saying that it had been a stimulating seminar on a programme that fitted well with the Town Council's direction of travel.

**It was unanimously resolved that the Town Council:**

- i) agrees to respond to the planned invitation to become one of the 100 organisations involved in the programme's next phase; and
- ii) welcomes the possibility of a visit from a member of the *Our Place!* team.
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#### 143/13 No. 31 Bus

- a) The background to the successful outcome of the Working Group set up by the Town Council's meeting of 12 August in response to the announced withdrawal of the No. 31 Bus service from 30 September this year was summarised in Report 79/13 for this meeting.
- b) The particular contribution to the reinstatement of the service with a new operator of Jim Morgan and Stuart George was acknowledged.

**It was unanimously resolved that the Town Council:**

- i) confirms its commitment to support the new arrangements for the provision of the service;
- ii) agrees to continue the banking function for it;
- iii) authorises the Town Clerk to reimburse MiniBus Plus the £60 registration fee paid to the Traffic Commissioners; and
- iv) records its appreciation of their work to the original operator Ken Day, and Jim Morgan and Stuart George.
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#### 144/13 BEACH SAFETY

- a) Report 80/13 summarised the activity of this season's Beach Safety Project in the provision of First Aid and advice for beach users.
- b) Councillor Harry Rees informed the meeting that the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils was still arguing for the reintroduction of Lifeguarding Services to the Island's major beaches.

**It was unanimously resolved that:**

Report 80/13 be forwarded to the Isle of Wight Council in fulfilment of the funding agreement.

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#### 145/13 PADDLING POOL

- a) Report 81/13 provided a summary of the first year of the Town Council's management of the Paddling Pool.
- b) Councillor Stewart Blackmore welcomed the contribution the Spar store on the old garage site had made to the town and the sponsorship they had provided to the Paddling Pool.
- c) Councillor Brian Lucas proposed an earlier opening next year, certainly by Easter.

**It was unanimously resolved that the Town Council:**

- i) records its appreciation of the Spar sponsorship commitment in 2013; and
- ii) formally accepts the offer of its continuation in 2014.
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#### 146/13 ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE

The recommendations of the Public Buildings Working Group about further nominations of some of the town's public buildings as Assets of Community Value as set out in Report 82/13

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were considered.

**It was unanimously resolved that:**

- i) nominations as Assets of Community Value be submitted to the Isle of Wight Council for St Boniface School, the Youth Club and the Library; and
  - ii) nominations as Assets of Community Value be prepared and submitted for the Children's Centre and Springhill Gardens.
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**147/13 ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL GOVERNANCE**

- a) The Mayor made a specific declaration of interest in respect of this item.
- b) The three options for the structure of decision-making by the Isle of Wight Council set out in their consultation documentation and attached to Report 83/13 were considered.
- c) Councillor Stewart Blackmore said that he had attended the recent discussion of this by the Isle of Wight Council's Scrutiny Committee. He went on to say that he strongly supported Option 3.
- d) Councillor Ken Knapman said that this was a concern for the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils and that he felt the inclusion of a Scrutiny function was essential.
- e) Councillor Harry Rees disputed the claim by the Isle of Wight Council that all options were cost-equal. He welcomed the decision to await the input from the consultation processes.
- f) Councillor Ed Gouge pointed out that the Cabinet system had been imposed by Central Government and had the effect of excluding non-Cabinet Members from decision making.

**It was resolved that:**

Option 3 be supported and the Isle of Wight Council and the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils be informed accordingly.

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**148/13 FULFILLING LIVES: AGEING BETTER**

The Town Clerk reported on his recent involvement with the *Fulfilling Lives: Ageing Better* Big Lottery programme as summarised in his report for this meeting: 84/13.

**It was unanimously resolved that:**

The Town Council strongly supports this development and appoints Councillors Ken Knapman and Jason Mack to be its representatives within it.

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**149/13 IWALC REPORT**

- a) Councillor Harry reported that the next meeting of the Isle of Wight Association of Local Council was this coming Thursday.
  - b) He said that he had been cordially received at his first attendance at the Isle of Wight Council's Scrutiny Committee as IWALC's representative.
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**150/13 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT**

The report from the Town Clerks – 85/13 – provided information about the maintenance of Memorial Benches, the successful Community Day, the receipt of Borrowing Approval, the attendance of Councillor Leigh Geddes at this year's Locality Convention and the submission of the Town Council's Expression of Interest in the management of the town's car parks.

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**PUBLIC FORUM**

The Mayor re-opened the Public Forum.

Wendy Marshall commented on the value of early opening of the Paddling Pool, subject to the weather.

A member of the public asked whether the inclusion of the police in Salisbury Gardens would facilitate public access.

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**151/13 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 item is under discussion as it is of a confidential nature.

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**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.50PM**

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SIGNED BY THE MAYOR	DATE