



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

ST MARGARET'S HALL

7PM

11 NOVEMBER 2013

## MEMBERS PRESENT

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

## NO. SUBJECT

### PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Mayor opened the Public Forum with 6 members of the public present.
- b) A member of the public asked if the Town Council could appoint a Member to be the point of contact for street furniture. The Mayor said that the Town Council was at this time content that these matters continue to be dealt with by the Assistant Town Clerk.
- c) She went on to ask about the frequent absences of one Town Councillor from meetings and the Mayor responded that this was a matter under discussion and that he would write to her in due course.

### 153/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Leigh Geddes, Chris Welsford and Ken Knapman.

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

### 154/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Mayor declared an interest as a County Councillor.

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

### 155/13 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 14 October 2013, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meetings of 15 October and 5 November 2013 were received. The Chair of the Town Council's Planning Committee reported the resignation of Councillor Jason Mack from the Committee and thanked him for this work to date.

### 156/13 FINANCE REPORT

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

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

### 157/13 SALISBURY GARDENS

Report 87/13 for this meeting provided Members with an update on developments since the last meeting in respect of the future management of Salisbury Gardens.

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

- i) agrees to fund the two valuations of the building required to progress the leasing discussions;
  - ii) supports an application to the Reaching Communities funding stream for the development of the ground floor as a community space; and
  - iii) confirms the working hours' extension identified in the Report.
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**158/13 VENTNOR CENTRAL: LSOA E0101763**

- a) Report 88/13 for this meeting outlined the significance of data provided at Lower Super Output area level for deprivation studies and summarised the location of LSOA E0101763 within its rankings in the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010.
  - b) It was noted that this information provided the evidence of need section of the application to the Reaching Communities Fund.
  - c) Councillor Ed Gooze made the point that many other areas in the bottom 20% had received large amounts of money over recent years and it would be good if some now came to Ventnor.
  - d) Councillor Harry Rees said that the Economic Working Group would look at this in connection with the Island Plan.
  - e) The Town Clerk's suggestion that similar analyses of the other three Lower Super Output Areas of the town could be prepared and presented to future Town Council meetings was welcomed.
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**159/13 VENTNOR TENNIS CLUB**

The Town Council considered the request from Ventnor Tennis Club for a letter of support for their funding application to refurbish their Club House.

**It was unanimously resolved that:**

The Town Clerk be asked to write an appropriate letter of support for the Ventnor Tennis Club's funding application.

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**160/13 No. 31 BUS ROUTE**

- a) Report 90/13 summarised the activity involved in providing an alternative transport service for St Lawrence residents in response to their expressed concerns about the rerouting of the No. 6 Bus through Whitwell for the duration of the 6-month closure of a section of the Undercliff.
- b) With the support of the Isle of Wight Council and advice from both Stuart George and Jim Morgan the Town Council has been able to arrange for the extension of the current No. 31 bus route from Ventnor Botanic Gardens to Spindlers' Road in the centre of St Lawrence.
- c) Councillor Stewart Blackmore commented that Councillor Chris Welsford had been very helpful in progressing this matter and went on to thank all others who had been involved in achieving this development.

**It was unanimously resolved that:**

- i) the Town Council funds the additional £5 per day cost of the route extension for the remainder of the current financial year and reimburses MiniBus Plus for the Traffic Commission's charge for registering the new route; and
  - ii) records its thanks to those who have worked to make this possible: the Isle of Wight Council Officer, Stewart Chandler, Stuart George, Jim Morgan, the Assistant Town Clerk and Minbus Plus.
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**161/13 VENTNOR BOXING CLUB**

- a) Councillor Harry Rees explained the threat to the future of the Boxing Club as a
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consequence of the proposed sale of their current venue and suggested that the Town Council ask for a meeting with the Club.

- b) The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillor Blackmore along with the Clerk will seek to arrange a meeting with the Club.
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#### 162/13 IWALC REPORT

- a) Councillor Harry Rees reported that on the latest developments in the work of the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils and his role in them.
- b) He reported on his attendance at his second meeting of the Scrutiny Committee and commented on the background to the Isle of Wight Council's Budget presentations.
- c) He further reported that the Isle of Wight Council will pass on the Town and Parish Council element of the Council Tax funding in receives from central government again this year though it would be subject to the 10% reduction government had imposed.
- d) He went on to say that representations on the possibility of the Island reclaiming Assisted Area status were still ongoing.
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#### 163/13 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

The report from the Town Clerks – 91/13 – provided information about Westminster Day, the Upper Ventnor Community Association meeting, Volunteering Noticeboards, possible Allotment space, the Ventnor Park relief map, attendance at Locality's Annual Convention and goodbyes to the Isle of Wight Council's Coastal Management Team.

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#### PUBLIC FORUM

The Mayor re-opened the Public Forum.

- a) A member of the public asked about the empty property in North Street and the Clerks agreed to investigate.
- b) Stuart George thanked everyone involved in the extension of the No 31 Bus route to St Lawrence.
- c) Maureen Cawley said that Ventnor Business Association would organise the Christmas in Ventnor event in 2014 and the development was being progressed on a smaller scale this year by Ventnor Enhancement Fund on 14 December. The Mayor thanked Maureen Cawley for her report.
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#### EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

- 164/13 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 8.30PM

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SIGNED BY THE MAYOR	DATE
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