



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

ST MARGARET'S HALL

7PM

9 DECEMBER 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

NO. SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Mayor opened the Public Forum with 5 members of the public present.
- b) There were no questions at this time.

165/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Tony Marvin, Ed Gouge and Harry Rees.

166/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Mayor declared an interest as a County Councillor.

Councillor Stewart Blackmore declared an interest in Agenda item 7.

Councillor Jim Toogood declared an interest in part of Agenda item 15.

+ MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

167/13

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 11 November 2013, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meetings of 3 November 2013 were received.

168/13 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance report for this meeting (93/13) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 30 November 2013 and a list of payments made during November 2013.
- b) An accompanying paper set out expenditure in relation to the Budget lines for the year to 30 November 2013 with variances from year-to-date budget provision.

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

169/13 SALISBURY GARDENS

- a) Report 94/13 for this meeting provided an update on developments since the last meeting in respect of the future management of Salisbury Gardens and identified and described the decisions due to be considered on the Private Agenda.
- b) The Town Clerk explained that these decisions for this meeting and the detail on which they would be based were commercially sensitive and, in line with the Town Council's commitment to transparency, the purpose of this report, which he then detailed, was to ensure that the public were aware of the matters under discussion and the factual base for them.

170/13 VENTNOR BOXING CLUB

- a) Report 95/13 for this meeting outlined the background to the discussions about retaining a

venue for the Ventnor Boxing Club following the decision of the Methodist Church to sell their building on the High Street that is the Club's current venue.

- b) Councillor Brian Lucas reported on his work in exploring the feasibility of the building being purchased by a consortium of residents jointly providing the purchase price and a sum for essential maintenance and forming an appropriate corporate vehicle for its ownership and allowing continuing use of the building by the Club.
- c) He explained that should the building become unsafe, the sponsors would have the right to sell the site and reclaim their funding in proportion to their investment and that the Town Council's input would be limited to the professional services needed to achieve the purchase and the ongoing insurance of the fabric of the building.
- d) He reported that the Structural Engineer had assured that the building was structurally safe and some two-thirds of the necessary finance had been committed.
- e) Councillor Brian Lucas was thanked for his work in developing this option.

It was unanimously resolved that:

the Town Council recognises the enormous value of the Boxing Club's contribution to the town and agrees to fund the initial legal and surveyor costs and, if the purchase is achieved, the insurance to cover the fabric of the building and the related public liability.

171/13 ARMED FORCES DAY

- a) Report 96/13 for this meeting presented a request from the Armed Forces Day Committee for a contribution to the costs of the event planned to be held at Ryde on 21 June 2014
- b) Stewart Blackmore, at the invitation of the Mayor, explained the significance of the event.

It was unanimously resolved that

A sum of £100 be contributed to the expenses of the Armed Forces Day.

172/13 ESPLANADE LOADING BAY

Councillor Jim Toogood introduced this item in view of the continued misuse of the current loading bay – and showed photographs to demonstrate it – and proposed that it be changed to ensure it was actually available only to commercial vehicles.

It was unanimously resolved that:

the Town Clerk be asked to contact the Isle of Wight Council to request a conditions change so that the bay is available to commercial vehicles only with a maximum time of 15 minutes and no return within 2 hours.

173/13 REPORT ON THE LOCALITY CONVENTION

- a) Councillor Leigh Geddes reported on her attendance as the Town Council's representative at the Annual Locality Convention held over two days last month in Leicester.
 - b) She explained Locality's structure and objectives and described some of the major features of the Convention event, attended by over 600 representatives of its member organisations, of which Ventnor Town Council is one.
 - c) She said it clear that Ventnor Town Council was in the vanguard of the use of Community Rights and that Locality is a very valuable resource for its membership.
 - d) The Mayor thanked Councillor Geddes for her attendance at the Convention and her report on it.
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174/13 REPORT ON BEAC COMMITTEE MEETING

- a) Councillor Jim Toogood reported on his attendance at the latest meeting of the Beach Environment Advisory Committee on Friday 6 December.
 - b) He commented on the range of issues the Committee is dealing with ranging from fertilisers running off the land to dogs fighting on the beach.
 - c) He has asked for more rescue rings to be available on Ventnor's beach and for better
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signposting.

175/13 IWALC REPORT

In the absence of Councillor Harry Rees the report on the work of the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils was postponed to the next meeting.

176/13 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

The report from the Town Clerks – 97/13 – provided information about the by-election in St Lawrence, two recent Seminars, the No. 31 Bus, the latest meeting with the Upper Ventnor Community Association, Exercise to Music sessions, Town Centre Christmas Trees and the retirement of Librarian Tess Jessop.

PUBLIC FORUM

The Mayor re-opened the Public Forum.

A member of the public said how much she appreciated the support being provided for the Boxing Club.

177/13 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.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.50PM

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR	DATE
