

# MINUTES OF THE VENTNOR TOWN ANNUAL MEETING

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ST FRANCIS PRIMARY SCHOOL

6.10PM

13 MAY 2013

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## ATTENDANCE

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

Apologies were received from Maureen and Bernard Cawley.

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## ITEM SUBJECT

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The meeting was opened by the Mayor with 16 members of the public present.

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### 1) MAYOR'S REPORT OF 2012/13

The Mayor opened the Town Meeting with his report for 2012/13 that is attached to these minutes. He recorded his thanks to previous Councillors whose service had ended: Debby Robinson, David George, Jim Morgan, Mark Robertson-Walker, Carol Jones and Simon Haytack and to the departing County Councillors Chris Welsford and Susan Scoccia.

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### 2) TOWN COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

- a) The other four Members that had been on the Town Council for the year 2012/13 gave short reports on areas of the Town Council's work that they have been involved with.
  - b) Councillor Jason Mack reported on the new 9-5 Project based at Ventnor Library through Ventnor Timebank, providing informal support for job seekers, followed by an update on the Car Parks project aimed at securing local control of the town's car parks under the Community Right to Challenge. He concluded by reporting that following the change of political direction for the Island it had now been possible to resubmit an application to the Coastal Communities Fund in connection with the future of the Coastal Centre.
  - c) Councillor Leigh Geddes reported on her involvement in the development of the new Ventnor Timebank and its support for volunteering, the 9-5 Project, and enabling community groups to benefit from input from partner organisations. She also referred to the engagement and joint working with Ventnor Botanic Gardens in projects including Gateway marking and Hanging Baskets for traders.
  - d) Councillor Jim Toogood reported on his involvement with addressing concerns about the stability of the War Memorial that was still ongoing with monitoring as required by the War Memorials Trust; he thanked the Ventnor Branch of the British Legion for their support and commitment to fund raising for the work. The Beach Safety Project has just entered its third year and he reported his own involvement in the First Aid Training that is provided to both staff and volunteers at the start of each year's work; the new responsibility this year for the Paddling Pool was working well. He concluded with reference to the work of the Town Council's Planning Committee that he Chairs.
  - e) Councillor Harry Rees reported on his involvement with the developing work of the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils (IWALC) emphasising the importance of its involvement with the attempt to secure Assisted Area Status for the Island and the European Funding that could follow that he is now leading on. His ability to gain IWALC's support for the Town Council's Coastal Centre proposals and the retention of the Coastal Management Team had resulted in an Island-wide profile for both.
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### 3) REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY

- a) Brian Lucas commented on the development of the Outfit Fitness Area in Ventnor Park with the addition of Children's equipment and a launch event for that on 27 May. He further reported on the work of the Bonchurch Community Association, thanking East Dene for offering the use of
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their Coach House for meetings following the loss of the Community Hall. He mentioned the successful Jubilee Beacon event that the Association had organised.

- b) Jane Goodlet reported that again this year Ryde had chosen to run their major Carnival event on the same day as Ventnor's. She confirmed that the Carnival this year would take place from 13-17 August.
- c) Ventnor Lions are supporting the Food Bank and have offered a £1,000 donation to War Memorial repairs alongside other support for community events.
- d) Friends of Ventnor Library have held several successful fund raising events to provide equipment for the Library and its Children's section and related events and are still looking to recruit younger members.
- e) Bob Ventress, recently appointed Chair of the Ventnor Business Association (VBA), reported on very positive developments in its work including increasing partnership working with the Town Council. He said that they were looking to achieve a membership of at least 75% of the town's businesses and reported that their new website would be launched on 1 June. He outlined their approach to the use of the £10,000 Portas funding the VBA had received last year.
- f) Jim Morgan reported on the No. 31 Bus that had been running successfully for 18 months. He further reported on the successful Ramblers event last weekend that had stemmed from his work with the Town Council's Economic Development Working Group.
- g) Ken Knapman reported on the continuing work of the Community Café that he described as one of Ventnor's little gems that was completely run by volunteers and entirely self-funded. He outlined the range of activities it provided from Mosaics throughout the town to courses delivered in the Café.
- h) Phillip Oxley reported on what had generally been felt to be a very successful Isle of Arts Festival this year and that planning had already started for next year to be run over the early May Bank Holiday weekend. He thanked all the volunteers and organisations that had provided support for the event.
- i) Bob Ventress reported as Vice-Chair of Ventnor Together on the continuing work of the youth Café and said they were very keen to recruit new volunteers.
- j) Wendy Marshall reported on her work as Dog Waste Worker for the Town Council identifying the main problem areas. She was applauded for her work for the town.
- k) The Mayor commented that the changes in the political direction at County Hall will include a positive commitment to the localism agenda and constructive working with Town and Parish Councils.

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#### 4 QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

- a) The Mayor responded to a question on the Terms of Reference of the Staffing Committee.
- b) A member of the public expressed concerns about the condition of some of the footpaths in the town and questioned the work of Dog Wardens.
- c) Further concerns were expressed about the condition and future of the Winter Gardens.

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**THE MEETING CLOSED 7.15PM**

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| SIGNED BY THE MAYOR | DATE         |
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