



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

ST MARGARET'S HALL

7PM

21 JANUARY 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors: Steve Stubbings (Mayor), Leigh Geddes, Harry Rees, Jim Toogood, Jason Mack.

NO. SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Mayor opened the Public Forum with 8 members of the public present.
- b) There were no questions or comments at this time.

1/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mark Robertson-Walker, Carol Jones., David George, Jim Morgan and Debby Robinson.

Apologies were also received from County Councillor Chris Welsford. County Councillor Susan Scoccia was present.

2/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3/13 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The minutes of the Town Council meeting of 10 December 2012, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings of 17 December 2012 and 16 January 2013 were received.

4/13 DISPENSATIONS

- a) The Town Clerk's Report 1/13 for this meeting had been previously circulated to Members.
- b) The options were discussed and:

It was unanimously resolved that:

the Town Council delegates the power to grant dispensations to the Town Clerk. The power rests with the relevant authority under section 33(1) of the Localism Act 2011 and the basis is set out under section 33(2).

5/13 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance report for this meeting had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 December 2012 and a list of payments made during December 2012.
- b) An accompanying paper set out expenditure in relation to the Budget lines for the year to 31 December 2012 with variances from year-to-date budget provision.

6/13 WAR MEMORIAL

- a) It was noted that the War Memorials Trust had rejected the Town Council's application for grant support for the proposed works on the stabilisation of the War Memorial and repairs and restructure of its base, proposing an 18-month monitoring schedule prior to any further application to them.
- b) Councillor Jim Toogood outlined the background to the decision and explained how the monitoring could be arranged. He also reported that the Working Group had met with the

officers of the Ventnor Branch of the British Legion on the way forward.

It was unanimously resolved that the Town Council agrees to:

- i) fund the 18-month required monitoring at the now quoted cost of £150 for each of six quarterly site visits and measurement;
 - ii) fund the assessment by the Town Council's engineers, of the point of no return (the extent of incline that would make rescue impossible) at a now quoted cost of £300;
 - iii) retain the balance of funding currently earmarked for this project in the Town Council's budget for this year and allow it to be carried forward for potential future use; and
 - iv) seek the agreement of the Isle of Wight Council to pay the remaining balance on the Economic Improvement Fund allocation to this work to the Town Council to be held on a ring fenced basis.
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7/13 CAR PARKING IN VENTNOR

- a) The Town Clerk reported that the Town Council's application to the Social Investment Business for a pre-feasibility grant of £9,020 to commission a Consultant to assist with the preparation of an Expression of Interest under the Community Right to Challenge had been accepted.
- b) He further reported that Andy Stafford of Parkspace Consulting had begun the work with a site visit on Monday 14 January 2013 that had included a meeting with 20 of the town's traders.

It was unanimously resolved that:

the Town Council appreciates and accepts the offer of a pre-feasibility grant of £9,020 and confirms that it is qualified to do so.

8/13 POLICE LIAISON REPORT

- a) Councillor Leigh Geddes reported on her meeting on 7 January 2013 with members of the South Wight Community Safety team.
 - b) They drew her attention to the Hampshire Constabulary web site that carries lots of locally relevant information and provided a list of local surgeries and future meetings.
 - c) Their work with other agencies is well developed around specific issues of concern and their street mapping practice is ongoing.
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9/13 PADDLING POOL

- a) The Town Clerk's report 5/13 for this meeting provided feedback from his meeting with the Isle of Wight Councils Strategic Manager Leisure, Recreation & Parks, Alex Minns about arrangements for the handover of the management of the Paddling Pool by Easter this year.
- b) An accompanying letter from John Perrett, Director of Hunnyhill Stores Ventnor Ltd, the operator of the town's SPAR store, setting out an offer of £1,000 sponsorship towards the annual costs of the Paddling Pool.

It was unanimously resolved that:

the Town Council asks Councillor Jim Toogood and the Town Clerk to continue discussions with John Perret about the size and location of the proposed signage.

10/13 SEA BREEZE PLAY

In view of information received indicating that the Playbuilder funding could not be used for fencing playgrounds it was agreed to postpone this item to a future meeting to enable clarification of this matter.

11/13 POST OFFICE CONSULTATION

- a) Councillor Harry Rees introduced this item, referring to the current consultation of the proposed move of the town's Post Office from its Church Street site to Seasons.
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- b) Councillor Jim Toogood said that having discussed the move with the staff concerned he found them very enthusiastic about the proposals with good reason to expect increased business.
 - c) Councillor Harry Rees suggested that support be sought from the Isle of Wight Council for pavement bollards as protection for the service.

It was unanimously resolved that:

the Town Council supports the proposals for the development and asks the Town Clerk to enter a positive contribution to the consultation.

12/13 BEACH MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Town Clerk reported that there is a current vacancy for a Town Council representative on the Island's Beach Management Committee.

It was unanimously resolved that:

Councillor Jim Toogood be appointed as the Town Council's representative on the Island's Beach Management Committee.

13/13 VENTNOR BOTANIC GARDENS

- a) Councillor Leigh Geddes reported on her recent discussions with the Botanic Gardens
 - b) She referred to John Curtis's visit to the Town Council meeting in December and her subsequent discussions with the Curator Chris Kidd. She read John Curtis's email outline of the Botanic Gardens' proposals for the Growing Spaces initiative on the northern side of Undercliff Drive.
 - c) Councillors generally welcomed such a development and encouraged Councillor Leigh Geddes to continue the discussions.
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14/13 IWALC REPORT

- a) Councillor Harry Rees reported on the latest developments within the business of the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils (IWALC).
 - b) He explained that IWALC now includes 99% of the Island's Town and Parish Councils before moving on to report on his role on IWALC's behalf in the attempt to regain Assisted Area status for the Island, working with the Isle of Wight Council.
 - c) The central issue is that for the purposes of the relevant statistics for decisions on Assisted Area status the Island is treated as part of Hampshire with the resultant camouflaging of the Island's deprivation.
 - d) He stressed the importance of securing the change for the future of the Island.
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PUBLIC FORUM

The Mayor re-opened the Public Forum.

- a) A member of the public asked if the post box would follow the relocation of the Post Office and Councillor Harry Rees said that the plans showed that it would.
 - b) A further question concerned the continuation of the limited and free Tourist Information service currently provided by Seasons.
 - c) Councillor Susan Scoccia asked whether any joint action could be developed between Ventnor Town Council and the Isle of Wight Council to clear up the important area between Salisbury Gardens and the sea. The Mayor said that one of the developments that would assist in such a project would be to introduce some planting, perhaps in collaboration with the Botanic Gardens. He asked that this be considered further by the Town Council.
 - d) The possibility of the Town Council having a sponsorship policy and a proposed list of offerings for it was raised for it.
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The Meeting closed at 8.15pm

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR	DATE