



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

VENTNOR LIBRARY

7PM

18 FEBRUARY 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

NO. SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Mayor opened the Public Forum with 10 members of the public present.
- b) A member of the public welcomed the presence of County Councillor Susan Scoccia and asked if she would give the public a statement about her support for the retention of Salisbury Gardens and the Mayor suggested that would be useful during Agenda item 6.
- c) County Councillor Susan Scoccia asked about the absence from meetings of one Member and the Mayor said that he would look at the detail of that following the meeting.
- d) On behalf of another member of the public County Councillor Susan Scoccia asked about progress with Ventnor Timebank. Councillor Jason Mack responded with the latest figures of engagement. Councillor Leigh Geddes commented on a number of valuable contributions from organisations including the Isle of Wight College and Portsmouth University.

17/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Debby Robinson and Jim Toogood.

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

18/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Town Clerk confirmed that he had issued Dispensations for all Members in respect of Agenda item 5: Budget & Precept 2013/14. Councillor Harry Rees declared an interest as Chair of Ventnor Social Club.

19/13 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the Town Council meeting of 21 January 2013 having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.

20/13 FINANCE REPORT

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

21/13 BUDGET & PRECEPT 2013/14

- a) A draft Budget for the financial year 2013/14 and related Precept proposals had been previously circulated to Members as Report 10/13 for this meeting.
- b) Councillor David George welcomed the proposed Budget and the opportunity it represented to protect the town from the loss of services.
- c) Councillor Jim Morgan supported the Budget as he anticipated that the transfer of services to the town council from the Isle of Wight Council would continue.
- d) Councillor Harry Rees referred to the Isle of Wight Council's need to continue to make

increasingly difficult budget cuts and the consequent importance of providing resources for continuing services.

It was unanimously resolved that the Town Council:

- i) formally adopts the draft Budget included in the papers for this meeting as its Budget for 2013/14;
 - ii) sets the Precept income to fund that Budget at £148,676 for that year offset by a related grant from the Isle of Wight Council of £23,239; and
 - iii) asks the Town Clerk to inform the Isle of Wight Council accordingly.
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22/13 COASTAL CENTRE

- a) Report 11/13 for this meeting provided an update on developments affecting the future of Salisbury Gardens including the timetable for the Isle of Wight Council's consideration of its nomination as an Asset of Community Value, the Isle of Wight Council's decision that the Town Council's Briefing paper on the matter could not be displayed in Ventnor Library and a summary of the responses to the consultation in the first week following its launch at the annual community meeting held on 30 January 2013.
 - b) Councillor Harry Rees reminded the meeting that IWALC was currently questioning the Isle of Wight Council's policy for the implementation of the Community Right to Bid.
 - c) Councillor Leigh Geddes said she found the refusal contrary to the ethos of the Library movement and unacceptable.
 - d) Councillor David George said that he felt the town was subject to a local authority that was essentially undemocratic and refusing to engage with an elected body in the form of the Town Council.
 - e) Councillor Jason Mack said that he had delivered the leaflets to the Library where they had been initially accepted as a matter of local interest which is exactly what it is.
 - f) Councillor Jim Morgan expressed surprise and yet another example of the Isle of Wight Council's inability to relate to local communities.
 - g) The Mayor welcomed the indication that the green would not be considered for sale at this time and that the Town Council would continue the fight as the building belonged to the Town.
 - h) County Councillor Susan Scoccia said that she is fully supportive of the nomination of the building as an Asset of Community Value but that she wanted Salisbury Gardens to be considered in the context of all the community buildings in the town.
 - i) Stewart Blackmore said he was concerned that senior Lawyer of the Isle of Wight Council had become involved.
 - j) Councillor Jason Mack pointed out that the Town Council was interested in all the town's buildings with community value and that other nominations for inclusion on the List of Assets of Community Value would follow.
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23/13 PUTTING GREEN

Draft proposals for the future management of the Putting Green were identified in Report 12/13 for this meeting.

It was unanimously resolved that:

the proposals set out in that report be progressed by the Town Clerk with a further report to a future Town Council meeting.

24/13 GROWING SPACES

- a) Councillor Leigh Geddes introduced this item, outlining the proposed development of a *Growing Spaces* project with the Botanic Gardens within their grounds.
 - b) She reported that a meeting with staff of the Botanic Gardens held earlier in the day attended by her and David together with the Assistant Town Clerk had been very positive.
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- c) The project was welcomed by all Members and Councillor Leigh Geddes was encouraged to continue progressing it.
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25/13 DAVID THORNTON MEETING

In the absence of Councillor Debby Robinson this item was postponed to the March meeting of the Town Council.

26/13 TOWN COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The Town Clerk provided information on the arrangements for the Town and Parish Council elections to be held on 2 May 2013 and the availability of Nomination Packs from the Town Council's web site or office.

27/13 LOCAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME CONSULTATION

- a) The Isle of Wight Council's consultation on the new Local Assistance Scheme was considered.
- b) Members were asked to pass their comments on the Scheme to the Town Clerk in time for her to enter a response to the consultation.
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28/13 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 said that all town and parish councils on the Island except Shanklin were now members. He has been commissioned by IWALC to progress their concern about the government's current refusal to challenge the exclusion of the Island from Assisted Area status. He reported on the meetings he had already been involved in this issue
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29/13 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerks' report for this meeting had been previously circulated to Members. The information covered grant applications, car parking, the Paddling Pool and the War Memorial.

PUBLIC FORUM

The Mayor re-opened the Public Forum.

- a) County Councillor Susan Scoccia said she didn't know what the alleged inaccuracies were that had led to the removal of the Town Council's Newsletter on the future of Salisbury Gardens from the Library but she said that the £400,000 capital receipt the Isle of Wight Council anticipated from its sale would go into a central pot and might be deployed anywhere on the Island in future.
- b) A member of the public said that he wanted to congratulate the Town Council on its work to retain the Coastal Centre and asked if the business plan would be updated in due course. The Town Clerk assured him that it would be as the Town Council will submit a revised proposal and related Business Plan in the light of recent developments following the May elections.
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The Meeting closed at 8.32pm

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR	DATE
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