



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

COASTAL CENTRE

7PM

15 APRIL 2013

## MEMBERS PRESENT

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

## NO. SUBJECT

### PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Mayor opened the Public Forum with 9 members of the public present.
- b) There were no questions or comments at this time.

### 47/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

### 48/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

### 49/13 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The minutes of the Town Council meeting of 18 March 2013, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meetings of 2 April 2013 were received.

### 50/13 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance report for this meeting had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 March 2013 and a list of payments made during March 2013.
- b) An accompanying paper set out expenditure in relation to the Budget lines for the year to 31 March 2013 with variances from year-to-date budget provision.
- c) The Report noted that with the change in Membership of the Town Council on 7 May, two of the three current authorised signatories would be lost.
- d) Councillor Harry Rees

#### **It was unanimously resolved that:**

- i) the Finance Report be accepted;
- ii) Councillors Harry Rees and Jason Mack be authorised signatories for the Town Council with effect from 7 May 2013; and
- iii) The Town Clerk be authorised to arrange the issue of a Town Council Credit Card.

### 51/13 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The Annual Accounts for the financial year 2012/13 had been previously circulated to Members and are attached to Report 28/13 for this meeting.

#### **It was unanimously resolved that:**

the Annual Accounts for the financial year 2012/13 be accepted as presented.

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#### **52/13 INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT**

- a) The Annual Report from the Town Council's Internal Auditor Gareth Hughes had been previously circulated to Members for consideration with Report 29/13.
- b) The Report confirmed the willingness of Gareth Hughes to be appointed as the Town Council's Internal Auditor for the financial year 2013/14.

**It was unanimously resolved that:**

- i) the report of the Internal Auditor be accepted and Gareth Hughes thanked for his work on the Town Council's behalf; and
  - ii) Gareth Hughes be appointed as the Town Council's Internal Auditor for the financial year 2013/14.
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#### **53/13 WARMER VENTNOR PROJECT**

- a) Report 30/13 for this meeting provided a summary of the first year of the Warmer Ventnor Project that provided support to Ventnor residents identified by the Footprint Trust as being in fuel poverty.
  - b) It was noted that the Project had assisted 17 local families during its first year.
  - c) Councillor Harry Rees welcomed the Project, particularly in view of the recent benefit cuts.
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#### **54/13 MARKET STREET TOILETS**

- a) The Town Clerk reported as requested during the Public Forum of the March meeting of the Town Council on the possibility of re-opening the possibility of the Town Council taking over the management of the Market Street toilets and their re-opening.
  - b) The findings are summarised in Report 31/13 together with the Isle of Wight Council's advertisement of the site for commercial sale that had to date prompted no offers.
  - c) Councillor Harry Rees suggested that a further approach to the Isle of Wight Council be left until after the election.
  - d) Councillor Leigh Geddes said she questioned whether these toilets were worth reinstating in view of the problems experienced when they were open.
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#### **55/13 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

- a) The priorities for the second year of the Project agreed by the Economic Development Group had been previously circulated to Members.
  - b) After a brief discussion the Working Group were asked to give further consideration to one item.
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#### **56/13 COASTAL CENTRE**

- a) Report 33/13 set out the responses to the Town Council's consultation on its proposals to retain the building for the future benefit of the town that had been endorsed by over 27% of the electorate.
  - b) The Mayor described his concern about the criteria used by the Isle of Wight Council to dismiss the nomination of the building as an Asset of Community Value and stressed the need to continue the work to retain the building for the benefit of the town.
  - c) Councillor Leigh Geddes said she agreed wholeheartedly with the Mayor.
  - d) Councillor Debby Robinson said the Town Council had a clear mandate from the consultation to continue that work.
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#### **57/13 LOCAL ELECTIONS**

- a) The new Membership of the Town Council following the election process was set out in Report 34/13 for this meeting.
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- b) The Mayor thanked those Members of the Town Council who would not be returning and Councillor Jim Toogood thanked Councillor Debby Robinson for her contribution to the Planning Committee.
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**58/13 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 referred to the decision in respect of the Coastal Management Team and reported that in addition to objections from IWALC, concerns had been expressed in writing also by the previous Chief Executive of South Wight Borough Council and others.
- c) He reported that the Island meets all the criteria for Tier 2 status which will open the way for some European funding in future
- d) The Mayor thanked Councillor Harry Rees on behalf of the Town Council for his work on these important issues.
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**59/13 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT**

- a) The report from the Town Clerks – 35/13 – covered work in respect of the Coastal Management Team, the monitoring of the War Memorial, the transfer to Island Roads, the changes in Payroll management, the Putting Green and the Isle of Arts Festival.
- b) It was noted that the Isle of Wight Council had agreed to extend the current arrangements for the management of the Putting Green for a further season while requiring that they manage the marketing process from for the end of the 2014 season.
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**PUBLIC FORUM**

- a) The Mayor re-opened the Public Forum.
- b) A member of the public thanked Councillor Debby Robinson for the courage she had shown in taking a lead role in challenging the practices of the previous Town Council in its management of the Winter Gardens.
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**60/13 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.

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The Meeting closed at 7.55pm

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SIGNED BY THE MAYOR	DATE