



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

ST LAWRENCE VILLAGE HALL

7PM

17 JUNE 2013

## MEMBERS PRESENT

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

## NO. SUBJECT

### PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Mayor opened the Public Forum with five members of the public present.
- b) A member of the public asked about the current situation of the Winter Gardens and suggested that a member of the Hambrough Group could be invited to attend the next meeting of the Town Council. The Mayor responded by saying that a guarantee to provide a full schedule of works had been given to the senior Isle of Wight Council officers.

### 82/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jim Toogood and Jason Mack.

### 83/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Mayor declared an interest as a County Councillor.

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

### 84/13 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 20 May 2013, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meeting of 11 June 2013 were received.

### 85/13 FINANCE REPORT

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

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

### 86/13 CO-OPTION

The Mayor reported that the Interview Group at its meeting of 12 June had met with the four people who had expressed an interest in co-option to the Town Council and unanimously recommended that Chris Welsford be co-opted to the vacancy for St Lawrence and Ed Gouge be co-opted to the vacancy in Ventnor West.

**It was resolved that:**

Chris Welsford be co-opted to the vacancy for St Lawrence and Ed Gouge be co-opted to the vacancy in Ventnor West.

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### 87/13 TOWN COUNCIL STRUCTURES

Report 46/13 for this meeting provided structure diagrams for both the arrangements the Town Council has put in place for the development and oversight of its work through a combination of Committees and Working Groups and the staffing structure to support that work.

**It was unanimously resolved that:**

the structure diagrams be welcomed.

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### 88/13 PUBLIC BUILDINGS

- a) Report 47/13 for this meeting recorded the outcomes from the first meeting of the Public Buildings Working Group appointed at the May meeting of the Town Council.
  - b) Councillor Tony Marvin pointed out that the Community Right to Bid also applies to land and buildings in private as well as public ownership.
  - c) Councillor Stewart Blackmore emphasised the importance of taking full advantage of this opportunity to identify locally important assets and provide the community with time to consider any proposal to sell them.
  - d) Councillor Harry Rees highlighted the importance of the fact that an expensive replacement of the Astroturf at Rew Valley Sports Centre will be required in the near future.
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### 89/13 VENTNOR & UNDERCLIFF HERITAGE PARTNERSHIP

- a) The recently formed Partnership to progress the project for Interpretation Boards and a linked web site and apps recording and sharing the area's very significant heritage had submitted a request for the Town Council to become one of its sponsoring organisations providing advice and support accordingly, though not any financial contribution.
- b) Report 48/13 included a copy of the Group's Constitution and the details of their sponsorship request.
- c) The Mayor introduced the item by saying how much he welcomed this evidence of active community groups taking forward quality projects.
- d) Councillor Leigh Geddes also welcomed the project and asked who the current Partners were. At the invitation of the Mayor, the Chair of the Group provided that information.
- e) Councillor Tony Marvin asked about the possibility of overlap with the work of the Museum and the Group's Chair reassured him that there was no overlap with this specific project.
- f) Councillor Brian Lucas said that he welcomed the project as giving visitors context to their experience of the town.

**It was unanimously resolved that:**

the Town Council enthusiastically supports the Partnership's work and agrees to become one of its formal sponsors.

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### 90/13 ISLAND WASTE SERVICES COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

- a) Councillor Stewart Blackmore reported on his attendance at the latest – and his first – meeting of the Group.
  - b) He reported on good representation from the Isle of Wight Council, including its Chair. He said that the major local concern is the spreading of waste by animals ransacking the black bags.
  - c) He also said that there would no longer be changes to the domestic waste collections over bank holidays.
  - d) Councillor Brian Lucas asked if more information could be given to the public about which items could and could not be recycled.
  - e) In response to Councillor Brian Lucas's comment about residents' concerns over the apparent mixing of food waste and other waste in the same vehicles, Councillor Stewart
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Blackmore assured everyone that they are kept separately throughout the whole process.

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**91/13 IWALC REPORT**

- a) Councillor Harry Rees reported on the latest developments in the business of the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils (IWALC).
  - b) He said that their Annual General Meeting is this coming Thursday and Councillor Ken Knapman would be attending with him as the deputy representative of Ventnor Town Council.
  - c) He reported that a letter had now gone to the relevant Minister through the Island's MP requesting a reassessment of the Island's status in relation to qualifying for European Funding.
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**92/13 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT**

The report from the Town Clerks – 49/13 – provided information about the Esplanade Loading Bay, Memorial Benches, the National Association of Local Council's London Conference and the seminar programme for new Town Councillors.

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**PUBLIC FORUM**

The Mayor re-opened the Public Forum.

- a) A member of the public commented that she felt that St Boniface School would be a better location for the Town Council and the Library than the Coastal Centre.
  - b) She also asked what progress was planned to the works that currently required traffic light management in Upper Ventnor and the Mayor responded.
  - c) Councillor Rees commented on this and the threats to the other road linkages and asked the town's County Councillors if there were contingency plans in place. The Mayor said that he would raise the issue again with Island Roads.
  - d) Councillor Leigh Geddes congratulated the members of St Lawrence Community Association for the very successful Garage Gallop fund raising event.
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The Meeting closed at 8pm

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SIGNED BY THE MAYOR	DATE

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