



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

ST FRANCIS SCHOOL

7PM

9 JULY 2012

## MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors: Steve Stubbings (Mayor), Debby Robinson, Harry Rees, Jim Morgan, Jim Toogood, Leigh Geddes, Mark Robertson-Walker, Jason Mack

## NO. SUBJECT

The Mayor opened the meeting by introducing a group of four students from St Catherine's School and their teacher to report on a project they had undertaken at the Town Council's request to map and study the town's signage.

Through a powerpoint presentation with commentary from the students the programme for the project was outlined, with the town divided into six sections with the signs in each being photographed over the course of a week.

Images from each week's work were shown and attention drawn to many signs that were inadequate, out of date, misleading or in need of repair or replacement. Areas in which additional signs were needed were also identified.

Questions and comments were invited and responded to.

The Mayor thanked the student team and their teacher for their very thorough inspection of the town's signage and their presentation of their assessments. He asked that Councillor David George remained the link with the school for further developments of this valuable project.

## PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Mayor opened the Public Forum with 11 members of the public present. Both County Councillors had sent their apologies for absence.
- b) A member of the public referred to the increasingly frequent closure of the eco-toilet and the Assistant Town Clerk said that she had reported the current closure to the Isle of Wight Council.
- c) Another member expressed concern about the cost of an Annual Pass at the Botanic Gardens as although the need for the gardens to achieve break even financing there was a risk that the prices would be prohibitive for local people. Councillor Harry Rees suggested that the matter be taken up with the Friends of the Botanic Garden and the Town Clerk was asked to do so.

The meeting started at 7.43pm.

## 99/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors David George and Carol Jones.

## 100/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Harry Rees declared a personal interest as Chair of Ventnor Social Club.  
Councillor Jim Morgan declared an interest as Vice-Chair of Friends of Ventnor Library.

## 101/12 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The minutes of the Town Council meeting of 11 June 2012, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.

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- b) The Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting of 26 June 2012 were received.
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#### 102/12 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance report for this meeting had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 30 June 2012 and a list of payments made during June 2012.
- b) An accompanying paper set out the related expenditure in relation to the Budget lines for the year to 30 June 2012 with variances from year-to-date budget provision.
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#### 103/12 QUALITY COUNCIL REACCREDITATION

- a) The Town Clerk reported on progress with the Reaccreditation process involving the completion of an Application Form consisting of a statement of compliance with 40 elements of a Town Council's work and the preparation of an Evidence File with over 100 documents.
- b) He went on to identify two elements that the Town Council had yet to formally adopt: a mandatory *statement of intent* on training of Members and staff and a discretionary Community Engagement Strategy.
- c) Drafts for each had been previously circulated to Members.

**It was unanimously resolved:**

that the circulated Statement of Intent on Training and the early stage Community Engagement Strategy be formally adopted.

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#### 104/12 CODE OF CONDUCT & REGISTER OF INTERESTS

- a) The Town Clerk reported that following government changes in the arrangements for Members' compliance with Nolan Principles, the Law and Good practice, adoption of a new Code of Practice is required.
- b) A draft for that Code, based on the one provided by the Isle of Wight Council as a prospective common version for all the Island's Councils had been previously circulated to Members.

**It was unanimously resolved that:**

- i) the draft Code of Conduct as circulated be formally adopted; and
- ii) it be noted that Members are required to complete the revised Register of Interests within 28 days.
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#### 105/12 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING VENUES

- a) Councillor Debby Robinson introduced this item with a proposal that as the circulation of Town Council Meetings to different venues had not had any effect on numbers of members of the public attending them, a common venue be adopted for future meetings
- b) Councillor Leigh Geddes said that she felt that a venue in Upper Ventnor should be retained. Councillor Harry Rees said that he felt continuing the rotation was more congruent with the Town Councillor Community Engagement Strategy.
- c) The Mayor suspended Standing Orders to invite members of the public to comment with a general feeling that continued rotation was important provided transport arrangements were acceptable.
- d) With Standing Orders reinstated the discussion continued but a proposal to move to a single venue was not adopted.
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#### 106/12 POLICE CONNECTIONS

- a) Councillor Debby Robinson introduced this item to propose that regular reporting from the Police be reinstated.
- b) Councillor Harry Rees supported this with a proposal that the Police be invited to report on
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a quarterly basis.

**It was unanimously resolved:**

that the Police be asked to report to the Town Council on a quarterly basis.

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**107/12 OUTFIT FUNDING**

The Town Clerk reported that Ventnor Enhancement Fund is currently progressing a further Lottery application for £3,500 to fund the installation of four items of equipment suitable for use by children and assurances are required that the Town Council is willing to fund an extension of the Insurance and Maintenance cover for the items currently on the site to cover these items while continuing its Accountable Body role for this additional element.

**It was unanimously resolved that:**

the Town Council extend Insurance cover and the Maintenance Agreement for the additional four items and continue its Accountable Body role for the additional funding in the application is successful.

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**108/12 DISPLAY STAND FOR VENTNOR LIBRARY**

- a) Councillor Jim Morgan introduced this item as a request from the Library staff for a display stand for Ventnor Town Council's publicity and related documents as well as items of general interest to residents.
- b) He confirmed that space within the display would be reserved for Town Council use.

**It was unanimously resolved that:**

the Town Council authorise the purchase of a wall mounted display arrangement for use in the Library at a cost of £142.

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**109/12 TIME BANK**

The previously circulated report on progress with the development of the Ventnor Time Bank and next steps in the process was noted by Members.

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**110/12 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT**

- a) The Town Clerks' report for this meeting had been previously circulated to Members.
  - b) The detail referred to the Warmer Ventnor Project, the War Memorial restoration, the Dudley Road Car Park, the First Aid Hut, two new Memorial Benches and the decision not to proceed with a proposal from a local business to introduce a catering facility on the beach.
  - c) Councillor Harry Rees told Members that he would be pursuing the issues around Assisted Area Status through IWALC.
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**PUBLIC FORUM**

The Mayor re-opened the Public Forum.

- a) A member of the public suggested that venues might be usefully tested by a wheelchair user.
  - b) The removal of access to public toilets in the town by wheel chair users and people with other disabilities had been identified by the Signage Survey and recognised as sufficiently serious for the Town Clerk to be asked to register this with the Isle of Wight Council and ask for a response.
  - c) Another member of the public referred to two major blots on the town's landscape: the derelict building on the Esplanade and the Tesco building.
  - d) The danger to the public caused by blockage of the pavement was highlighted and Councillor Harry Rees reminded the meeting of the Isle of Wight Council's intentions for the High Street in response to the Tesco development that he believed would add to the existing problems.
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The Meeting closed at 8.40pm

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SIGNED BY THE MAYOR	DATE