



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

ST LAWRENCE VILLAGE HALL

7PM

13 AUGUST 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors: Steve Stubbings (Mayor), David George, Debby Robinson, Harry Rees, Jim Morgan, Leigh Geddes, Mark Robertson-Walker.

NO. SUBJECT

- a) The Mayor opened the meeting by welcoming John Langley and Dennis Russell of the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) to make a presentation to Wendy Marshall.
- b) John Langley, Chair of the Isle of Wight Branch of the CPRE began by explaining the structure and role of the organisation, highlighting the Stop the Drop campaign launched by Bill Bryson and carried on by Poet Laureate Andrew Motion. The Award tonight, he said, was in recognition of excellent contributions to this campaign.
- c) He then read the citation of nomination for a national award from the Isle of Wight Branch for Wendy Marshall and it was decided to give her a special award for her voluntary work in dealing with litter in campaigning, proposals to the Isle of Wight Council for more litter bins and the organisation of regular litter picking activities.
- d) He presented Wendy with a special Certificate in recognition of her work and photographs were taken of the presentation. He also handed her a copy of the Citation and a cheque.
- e) The Mayor thanked John Langley and Dennis Russell for their attendance and the Isle of Wight Branch of the CPRE for the recognition of Wendy Marshall's contribution to the life of the town while adding Ventnor Town Council's own appreciation of her work.

PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Mayor opened the Public Forum with 13 members of the public present. Both County Councillors had sent their apologies for absence.
- b) A member of the public drew attention to the forthcoming Fell Running event in September and asked how participation could be increased and how many Members of the Town Council had enrolled for it.
- c) The Mayor responded by acknowledging the importance of the event and offered to include details of the event on the Town Council's web site from details to be supplied.
- d) A question was asked about the status of the Notice of the proposed new layby in the High Street and was assured by the Town Clerk that it is a Highways Traffic Notice.

111/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

112/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Harry Rees declared a personal interest as Chair of Ventnor Social Club.
Councillor Jim Morgan declared an interest as Chair of the Ventnor Community Bus CIC.

113/12 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The minutes of the Town Council meeting of 9 July 2012, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.

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- b) The Minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings of 12 July and 7 August were received.
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114/12 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance report for this meeting had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 July 2012 and a list of payments made during July 2012.
- b) An accompanying paper set out the related expenditure in relation to the Budget lines for the year to 31 July 2012 with variances from year-to-date budget provision.
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115/12 COASTAL CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

- a) The Town Clerk's paper outlining possible a possible development of the building, and potential funding for it, to ensure its survival and provide valuable services to the Town had been previously circulated to Members.
- b) The paper acknowledged that the funding deadlines involved had required initial applications to be submitted prior to discussions with the Isle of Wight Council being possible about the need of formal lease of the building to the Town Council could take place

It was unanimously resolved that:

The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Town Clerk are authorised to discuss with the Isle of Wight Council an appropriate lease agreement that would enable both the completion of the funding application processes within the necessary timescales and the delivery of its Business Plan.

116/12 REGISTER OF INTERESTS

- a) In response to some concerns about the changes to the format of the Register of Interests as a consequence of the Localism Act 2011 the Town Clerk had circulated a paper for this meeting.
- b) The Mayor introduced the topic stating that his concerns about the new requirements were a matter of principle for him given that while he had chosen to enter public office, his wife had not. He also asked why the additional required entries were restricted to partners when other relationships might be considered as significant.
- c) Councillor Harry Rees stated that these concerns had been raised by other Town and Parish Councillors and the issues were currently under discussion between the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils (IWALC) and the Isle of Wight Council.

It was unanimously resolved that:

the Town Clerk refers the expressed concerns directly to the Isle of Wight Council with a copy to IWALC.

117/12 NEW HIGH STREET LAYBY

- a) Councillor Harry Rees introduced this item stating that this is piecemeal development that if implemented alone would significantly add to the already present danger to pedestrians. He also criticised the change from a loading/unloading bay only to one that included parking rights from 10am.
- b) Councillor Debby Robinson drew attention to the fact that the actual location of the now proposed loading bay had been moved significantly in a way that would also increase both the difficulties for traffic and the danger to pedestrians.
- c) The report from the Town Clerk on the matter that had been previously circulated to Members confirmed that contrary to the suggestion by the Isle of Wight Council's Group Manager: Network Management and Improvement, Kevin Burton, Ventnor Town Council had objected to the plans at their original discussion of them in 2007.
- c) It was noted that the Highways Traffic Order provided for comments on the proposal to be lodged with the Isle of Wight Council by 17 August 2012.
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It was unanimously resolved:

that the Town Council's serious concerns about the Order and its implementation be registered with the Isle of Wight Council and specifically:

- i) seeking confirmation that the loading bay would not be put in place other than in the context of the whole scheme;
 - ii) objecting strongly to the proposed relocation of the bay as compared with the original 2007 plans agreed by the Isle of Wight Council;
 - iii) asking that the bay be limited to loading/unloading with no provision for car parking; and
 - iv) requesting the timeline for the implementation of the whole scheme.
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118/12 LOCAL SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FUND

- a) The Town Clerk introduced his previously circulated paper highlighting the almost complete exclusion of Ventnor from the £3.95M funding now available to the Isle of Wight Council.
- b) It was noted that the Ventnor Business Association, following their own lobbying of the Council on this matter, had asked that the Town Council pursue the matter further on behalf of the Town.

It was unanimously resolved:

that the Mayor be authorised to lobby the Isle of Wight Council, including the town's two County Councillors to achieve a share of the funding resource appropriate to Ventnor's needs and its recognition in the Core Plan as one of the two Smaller Regeneration Area, along with Freshwater, identified in the Core Plan.

119/12 TIMEBANK CONSTITUTION

- a) The Town Clerk introduced this item explaining that a recent meeting of the Town Council's Community Engagement Working Group had proposed that the Timebank's major policy documents should carry the agreement and authority of the Town Council.
- b) Consequently, this meeting was being asked to adopt formally the previously circulated Constitution for the Timebank, noting that Councillor Leigh Geddes was now Chair of the Steering Group.

It was unanimously resolved that:

the Constitution as circulated be adopted.

120/12 WINTER GARDENS

- a) The Mayor outlined his growing concerns about the continuing delay in concluding the agreement between the Isle of Wight Council and the Hambrough Group for the sale of the Winter Gardens and the increasing deterioration of the building meanwhile.
- c) Concern was also expressed by Members about the impression given to visitors during the season by the boarded up state of the building.

It was unanimously resolved that:

the Town Council expresses its concern to the Isle of Wight Council about the continued postponement of the transfer of ownership of the Winter Gardens and its consequent redevelopment and asks that the boarding be painted in an appropriate colour as soon as possible.

121/12 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 issuing of invitations to tender for the work on the War Memorial, progress with the Quality Council Re-application process, the final signing of the Leases for the First Aid Hut (five years) and the Outfit Land (10 years) and the installation of six new BT Cabinets.
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- c) Councillor Debby Robinson drew attention to the impact of the new Cabinets on the street scene and commented that in some other areas BT had agreed to art work being applied to them. She was encouraged by Members to continue her research of this possibility and report further.
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PUBLIC FORUM

The Mayor re-opened the Public Forum.

- a) A member of the public commented that retention of the new layby for deliveries only would be unlikely to be enforceable.
- b) The Chair of the Isle of Wight Council's Bus User Group commented that Brading and Freshwater had been identified as secondary Transport Hubs in the Sustainable Transport proposals and said that Ventnor should have at least the same claim on its resources.
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The Meeting closed at 8.35 pm`

| SIGNED BY THE MAYOR | DATE |
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