



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

EARLY YEARS CENTRE

7PM

10 SEPTEMBER 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors: Steve Stubbings (Mayor), David George, Debby Robinson, Harry Rees, Jim Morgan, Leigh Geddes, Jim Toogood.

NO. SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Mayor opened the Public Forum with 10 members of the public present. County Councillor Susan Scoccia was also present.
- b) A member of the public asked about the significance of the Localism Act 2011 for Ventnor and the Town Council. The Town Clerk outlined the four new powers contained in the Act.
- c) Another member of the public asked about the use of the decorative lights and bunting in the town.
- d) The Town Clerk was asked if he had had a response to his letter to the Highways Service following last month's Town Council's resolution about concerns over the proposed changes to the High Street to accommodate the new Tesco Express. No response had been received and the concerns were outlined again, drawing attention to the considerable variation between the latest planning permission and the published proposals.
- e) Councillor Harry Rees said that in his view the Isle of Wight Council had not acted properly in this matter and was seeking to implement different adjustments to those covered by the planning application and to do so in a piecemeal fashion.
- f) The Town Clerk was asked to request a more immediate response from Kevin Burton and to write to Director of Environment and Economy Stuart Love.

122/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Carol Jones, Mark Robertson-Walker and Simon Haytack.

123/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

124/12 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The minutes of the Town Council meeting of 13 August 2012, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting 28 August were received.

125/12 FINANCE REPORT

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

AD COASTAL CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

- a) The Town Clerk's paper on the ongoing discussions with the Isle of Wight Council about the future development of the Coastal Centre had been previously circulated to Members.
 - b) It was noted that discussions with the Isle of Wight Council had developed into an invitation from the Isle of Wight Council's Chief Executive Steve Beynon for the Town Clerks to meet with him and Director of Environment & Economy Stuart Love that took place on Thursday of last week.
 - c) Following the submission of further related paperwork the proposals would be discussed at the Chief Executive's weekly meeting with the Leader of the Council, David Pugh.
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127/12 WAR MEMORIAL RESTORATION

- a) A detailed report on the latest developments with the project for the underpinning and restoration of the War Memorial had been previously circulated to Members including details of the recently completed tendering process for the necessary works and a summary of the consequent funding requirement.
- b) Expert advice had been sought since the circulation of the report on the issue of the whether or not the VAT would be reclaimable.

It was unanimously resolved that:

- i) the application for funding support for the works circulated with the Town Clerk's paper be submitted to the War Memorials Trust;
 - ii) the implementation of the project remains dependent on the full funding requirement being identified;
 - iii) The £1,500 allocation from the Economic Improvement Fund and its Ventnor Town Council match be redirected to this work;
 - iv) the Ventnor Branch of the Royal British Legion be thanked for its willingness to lead on local fundraising for the works.
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128/12 PUTTING GREEN

- a) A previously circulated report on the future management of the Putting Green noted the resignation of the person appointed by the Isle of Wight Council to operate the Putting Green for the 2012 and 2013 seasons due to ill health.
- b) It also noted that the previous operators of the Putting Green who had stepped in at short notice to ensure its success this year were willing to continue through the 2013 season.

It was unanimously resolved that the Town Council

- i) expresses a strong preference for the appointment of Sue and Chris Cooper as the operators of the Putting Green for the 2013 season;
 - ii) asks the Town Clerk to discuss the implications of their appointment with the Isle of Wight Council;
 - iii) authorises the Town Clerk to buy back any items essential to the operation of the Putting Green for the 2013 season; and
 - iv) agrees to fund the necessary replacement of the floor of the Hut provided by the Town Council at an estimated cost of £70 and the purchase of a replacement roller for the mower.
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129/12 GREENER VENTNOR

- a) Councillor Leigh Geddes reported on proposals from the Botanic Gardens for planting of the area around the town's gateway signs.
 - b) She described the arrangements entered into earlier for this work which had been postponed during the handover period. It has now been agreed to concentrate on doing one of the four this year, and that would be the one on Leeson Road.
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- c) Issues of cost, timing and security were discussed and consideration given to the other three gateway sign areas.
 - d) Councillor Leigh Geddes confirmed that the proposal was for the planting of two palm trees at £800 each.

It was resolved:

that the proposed planting for the area of the Leeson Road Gateway Sign be agreed and a budget commitment of up to £1,600 be approved

- e) Councillor Debby Robinson reported on her recent tour of the Lynnbottom Civic Amenity Site. The material collected for recycling is stored at Lynnbottom until it is moved to Southampton. The black bag rubbish and food materials go to the gasification plant.
 - f) She highlighted the importance of cutting down on the amount of recycled waste being produced and said she would bring some proposals to a future meeting as Ventnor might make its own contribution to that reduction.
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130/12 TIMEBANK POLICY DOCUMENTS

Draft policy documents for the Timebank covering Child Protection, Data Protection and Equality and Diversity had been circulated to Members following their consideration by the Community Development Working Group.

It was unanimously resolved that:

the policy documents as circulated be formally adopted.

131/12 CHRISTMAS TREE

Councillor Debby Robinson introduced this item exploring arrangements and costs for the installation of a Christmas Tree in Spring Gardens.

It was unanimously resolved that:

The Town Clerks be asked to confirm the costs of such an installation in a report to the next meeting of the Town Council.

132/12 SALT BINS

- a) A paper revisiting the proposals developed last year for the installation of a series of Salt Bins in the town had been previously circulated to Members.
 - b) It was noted that the proposed supplier had confirmed a willingness to maintain the same prices as quoted last year and that a licence from the Isle of Wight Council would be required for each location at a cost of £50 for each.
 - c) A detailed discussion ensued around the extra costs of installation, the relative effectiveness of salt bins, the potential longer term costs and the problems of servicing them. It was also recognised that any installation adjacent to the highway would be affected by the forthcoming PFI scheme.
 - d) Although all Members acknowledged the importance of taking all feasible steps to protect the safety of residents and visitors, a proposal to proceed with the project was not carried.
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133/12 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

- a) The Town Clerks' report for this meeting had been previously circulated to Members.
 - b) The detail referred to appreciation of Memorial Benches and a planned maintenance programme for them, the Community Right to Bid and a Christmas in Ventnor event.
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PUBLIC FORUM

The Mayor re-opened the Public Forum.

The Meeting closed at 8.28 pm`

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR	DATE