



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

ST LAWRENCE VILLAGE HALL

7PM

14 FEBRUARY 2011

## MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors: Debby Robinson (Mayor), David George, Steve Stubbings, Harry Rees, Jason Mack.

## ITEM SUBJECT

### PUBLIC FORUM

The Mayor opened the Public Forum with 25 members of the public present

- a) A member of the public asked if two bags of builder's sand near the skate park could be moved and a litter bin be located there, with a corresponding move of the dog waste bin.
- b) A question was asked about the portable office outside Tesco. Councillor Harry Rees responded that he had already taken the matter up with the County Councillors in view of the danger it represented.
- c) Pigeon littering on the pavement near the Chinese restaurant was commented on. Councillor Harry Rees responded saying that there is very little that can be done by the street cleaning service for Health and Safety reasons and it needs more co-ordinated action to be taken including the likely impact of the demolition of the old bus station.
- d) Rob Wilson was given permission to update the meeting on progress to date with the commitment to put Butterfly Signs on the Ventnor Signs and the difficulties he was having in getting support from the Highways Service. Councillor David George responded that the Town Council was keen to support the initiative given the relatively large numbers of rare species in the Town and asked that the Town Council write to Highways to progress the matter.
- e) The meeting began at 7.12pm.

### 17/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jim Toogood.

### 18/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

### 19/11 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Town Council meeting of 19 January 2011 were considered.

**It was unanimously resolved:**

that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 19 January 2011 be agreed as an accurate record of the business of that meeting and be signed accordingly by the Mayor.

### 20/11 ISLAND GAMES

- a) Michelle Russell, Marketing Officer for the Island Games was invited to address the meeting and gave a short presentation outlining the context of the Games and giving details of the numbers of athletes – over 3,000 – coming to the Island to compete in 14 sports across 20 venues.
- b) She referred particularly to the events planned for Ventnor, with the Volleyball at Rew Valley and the Cycling Criterion event to be held on Sunday 26 July round the 800 metre circuit of the central roads. From 9am to 7pm these roads would be closed and barriers on both sides in place. The main Car Park will also be taken over by race officials and athletes.
- c) She said that this represented a huge opportunity for Ventnor businesses and some other

nearby events would contribute further.

- d) The importance of bringing the roads back up to good standard was stressed and the need to clarify the parking situation.
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#### 21/11 FINANCE

- a) The Finance report for this meeting had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 January 2011 and a list of payments made during January 2011.
  - b) An accompanying paper set out the Precept related expenditure in the first ten months of the current financial year.
  - c) The report also summarised the progress to date on addressing the issues raised by the External Auditor and identified the work that remained to be completed.
  - d) The Town Clerk reported that now the Town Council had a new fixed address, Sections 1 – 3 of the Annual return had been displayed as required.
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#### 22/11 WINTER GARDENS

- a) The Winter Gardens report for this meeting had been previously circulated to Members and included information on its closure, staff redundancies, inventory issues, outstanding contracts and the marketing process.
  - b) The report confirmed that the Town Council's responsibilities to staff had been fulfilled in respect of redundancy payments, final wages, payment for outstanding leave entitlements and P45s.
  - c) It also stated that a settlement figure had now been verbally agreed with Moulson Coors Brewery in respect of the loan from them taken out by the Town Council in 2007.
  - d) Councillor Harry Rees registered concern about some of the contracts entered into by past Town Councils.
  - e) Councillor Steve Stubbings said he was delighted that the Isle of Wight Council was clear about its commitment to retain community use and complimented them on the quality of their advertisements.
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#### 22/11 TOWN COUNCIL MATTERS

- a) The report for this meeting had been previously circulated to Members covering Offices, storage of Minute Books and old Mayoral Chain and amendments to Committees.
- b) Following the closure of the Winter Gardens the Town Council's staff had benefitted from the availability of the Youth Cafe at 34 Pier Street for two weeks. Two rooms at the Isle of Wight Council's Coastal Centre have been offered on a temporary licence at £350 a month including utilities.

**It was unanimously resolved**

that the offer of the two rooms at the Coastal Centre be accepted as the base for the Town Council's offices until further notice.

- c) After discussion of the offer from the Ventnor & District History Society to archive the last century Minute Books,

**it was unanimously resolved**

that the offer be gratefully accepted and the Society be asked if it would like to provide the same facility for the older Town Mayor's chain and historical pictures with the opportunity to display as appropriate including pictures.

- d) Following discussion of the impact to two recent resignations on the Planning and Staffing Committees of the Town Council,

**It was unanimously resolved**

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that the Terms of Reference of the Planning Committee be amended to set the Quorum for its meetings at three and that Councillor David George be appointed a member of the Staffing Committee.

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**23/11 LIFEGUARDS**

In the absence of Councillor Jim Toogood it was agreed to carry this item forward to the meeting of 14 March 2011.

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**24/11 CARDBOARD RECYCLING**

- a) Councillor David George declared a personal interest in this matter.
  - b) Councillor Harry Rees reported on his meeting with the Manager of the Co-operative which had proved very positive in offering a service to local business in recycling cardboard.
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**25/11 SEAWEED PROBLEM**

In the absence of Councillor Jim Toogood it was agreed to carry this item forward to the meeting of 14 March 2011.

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**PUBLIC FORUM**

The Mayor re-opened the Public Forum

- a) A member of the public asked if the Co-operative could be requested to clear the rubbish from its Car Park. Rubbish was also accumulating under the Bus Station.
- b) Another member of the public pointed out that for the Island Games Cycle Race to be possible the Tesco overspill offices would have to be removed.
- c) The possibility of brightening up the Town Centre in advance of the Cycle Race was raised.

Ventnor's need for a second ATM was highlighted now that the Winter Gardens one was no longer in place. Councillor Harry Rees commented that he was engaged in discussions with relevant businesses about securing one.

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**26/11 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 8.45 pm

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SIGNED BY THE MAYOR	DATE

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