



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

EARLY YEARS CENTRE

7PM

28 FEBRUARY 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

The Mayor opened the Public Forum with 9 members of the public present

- a) A member of the public asked about the provision of £59,000 as the Winter Gardens subsidy in next year's Budget given that the facility is now closed. The Town Clerk explained that the amount was made up of £35,000 to meet the costs and consequences of the closure, £20,000 to settle the loan agreement from 2007 and £4,000 outstanding on the finance agreement for the purchase of tills in October 2009.
- b) The meeting began at 7.05pm.

26/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence as all Members were present.

27/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Harry Rees declared an interest as the Chair of the Ventnor Social Club.
Welcome to Carol Jones

28/11 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Town Council meeting of 14 February 2011 were considered.

It was unanimously resolved:

that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 14 February 2011 be agreed as an accurate record of the business of that meeting and be signed accordingly by the Mayor.

29/11 BUDGET 2011/12

The Mayor introduced the proposed budget for 2011/12.

It was unanimously resolved:

that the Budget for 2011/12 as circulated be formally adopted.

30/11 PRECEPT 2011/12

The Mayor explained the reasoning behind the proposed Precept for 2011/12 and its almost 10% reduction from the level for the current year.

It was unanimously resolved:

that the Precept for 2011/12 be set at £135,000.

PUBLIC FORUM

The Mayor re-opened the Public Forum

- a) A member of the public expressed disappointment that no provision had been made for grants to local organisations and that the £1,000 allocation in this year's budget for that purpose had not been deployed.

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- b) Another member of the public said she hoped that funds would be applied this year to the restoration of public seats.
 - c) The concept of Destination Ventnor was raised in the hope that the Town Council could progress it as a positive response to the recent withdrawal of facilities.
 - d) A number of forthcoming high profile events in Ventnor were referred to including the Island Games and the Isle of Arts Festival as well as the opening of a Pop-Up restaurant in Ocean Blue.
 - e) Whether the Annual Fell Run would be affected by the closure of the Winter Gardens was raised and the Town Clerk was asked to contact Ryde Harriers about their plans for this year's event.
 - f) The Town Council was asked if it had any intention of taking over management of any of the public toilets the Isle of Wight Council proposed to close. The Mayor responded it was the Town Council's policy, strongly endorsed by the Public Meeting consultation on the effect of the Isle of Wight Council's planned Budget cuts, not to take on the operation of any of the Public Toilets proposed for closure.
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The Meeting closed at 7.25pm

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR	DATE