



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

ST FRANCIS SCHOOL

7PM

14 MARCH 2011

## MEMBERS PRESENT

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

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## ITEM SUBJECT

### PUBLIC FORUM

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

- a) The issue of the broken waste bin by the recycling area was raised and two members of the public reported on conversations they had had with the Council officials. The need for additional bins was acknowledged and County Councillor Susan Scoccia said she would follow the matter up.
- b) How to contact the committee responsible for the Skateboard Park was a question from a member of the public and a member of the Committee present at this meeting responded.
- c) The meeting began at 7.15pm.

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### 37/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Harry Rees.

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### 32/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at this point.

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### 33/11 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Town Council meeting of 28 February 2011 were considered.

**It was unanimously resolved:**

that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 28 February be agreed as an accurate record of the business of that meeting and be signed accordingly by the Mayor.

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### 34/11 POLICE MATTERS

- a) The Mayor welcomed Inspector Colin Hall and Sergeant Richard Stapleton to the meeting.
- b) Inspector Colin Hall said that he had taken over responsibility for the East Wight Safer Community team four weeks ago. He outlined the area his team is responsible for and commented that Ventnor was served by a very committed and experienced team.
- c) He went on to summarise actions taken recently by the team and reported that anti-social behaviour records showed a year-on-year decline in this area. He stressed that anti-social behaviour statistics are not limited to the actual commitment of offences but included intimidating behaviour.
- d) Ventnor is shown by the figures to be a relatively crime-free area with very significantly lower levels of offences.
- e) Action taken by the police in response to the nuisance stemming from the bunker parties had included liaison with the site owner to close off access. The pub-watch scheme is also proving effective.
- f) In response to a question from Councillor David George about the potential for educational programmes linked to responsible drinking, Inspector Colin Hall described two presentations currently being prepared for showing to the staff of licensed premises and in schools.

- g) He went on to remark that both PCs and PCSOs maintain links with the Youth Centre and local schools.
  - h) In closing he drew attention to the local action groups where police and public could meet at regular intervals to exchange information.
  - i) Sergeant Richard Stapleton agreed to the Mayor's request that the yellow police signs be now taken down.
  - j) Inspector Colin Hall and Sergeant Richard Stapleton were thanked by the Town Councillors for making their time available to contribute to the meeting.
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#### **35/11 FINANCE**

- a) The Finance report for this meeting had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 28 February 2011 and a list of payments made during February 2011.
  - b) An accompanying paper set out the Precept related expenditure in the first ten months of the current financial year.
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#### **36/11 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

The Town Clerk's report for this meeting had been previously circulated to Members and included information on the Town Council's office, the new staffing arrangements coming into effect on 1 April, current vacancies for Members and an update on the Winter Gardens marketing.

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#### **37/11 ISLAND GAMES**

- a) The Town Clerk stated that this item had been listed as there was a possibility of being able to report on the Isle of Wight Council's decisions about action ensue that Ventnor's central roads were in good order for the Island Games Criterion Cycle Race but that discussions were still in progress.
  - b) County Councillor Susan Scoccia commented that she had taken forward concerns expressed at the last Town Council meeting and understood from the Cabinet Member that the resurfacing was likely to be carried out in advance of the race.
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#### **38/11 LIFEGUARDS**

- a) Councillor Jim Toogood reported on the latest developments, including the fact that the Isle of Wight Council had now earmarked £25,000 to support beach safety in the four major resorts.
  - b) He expressed the hope that it might be possible to access some of that money to purchase relevant beach equipment for safety purposes.
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#### **39/11 GROWING SPACES/ALLOTMENTS**

- a) The Mayor introduced a discussion of local concerns about the absence of allotment provision in the Town. She said that following the previously unproductive attempts to identify suitable land she felt that a more creative approach was needed exploring such options as raised boxes.
  - b) It was agreed to invite Ray Harrington-Vale and a member of the Permaculture group to meet with the Town Council.
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#### **40/11 DOGS**

- a) The Mayor introduced this item expressing a widely shared concern that the dog mess problem was out of control and that usual responses are ineffective
  - b) The Town Clerk was asked to investigate the potential for the Isle of Wight Council Dog Warden team to become involved and to attend the next meeting of the Town Council.
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#### 41/11 GREEN TOWNS

- a) The Mayor reported that Councillor David George had offered to take the lead role in progressing Ventnor's commitment to the Green Town programme and

**it was unanimously resolved:**

that Councillor David George be appointed as the Town Council member for the Green Town initiative.

- b) Councillor David George explained the background to the Isle of Wight's Green Towns programme and that it needed a local steering group that he hoped to established through a meeting public meeting he would convene in the near future.
- c) He went on to identify the fact that Ventnor's ecology offered a strong basis for biodiversity tourism and there may be accessible funding to progress the matter.
- d) Councillor Steve Stubbings raised the matter of the Adult Fitness Centre and the Town Clerk was asked to clarify the potential costs of maintenance of the facility beyond the one year manufacturer's guarantee in time to enable a decision on this matter to be taken by the Town Council at its next meeting.
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#### 42/11 SEAWEED ISSUES

- a) Councillor Jim Toogood reported on a meeting convened to examine the options and further explore the problems.
- b) Following that meeting it was agreed with the County Council to re-route the fresh water from the Cascades and that has already been effected.
- c) He reported that the seaweed was already being regularly removed and dumped 140 yards east from where it is expected to disperse and confirmed that the Isle of Wight Council had a legal responsibility for clearing it.
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#### 43/11 DOCUMENT RETENTION POLICY

The Town Clerk had circulated a copy of the proposed policy and

**it was unanimously resolved:**

that the policy be adopted as presented.

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#### 44/11 MEETING SCHEDULE 2011/12

The Town Clerk had circulated a schedule for the Town Council meetings of 2011/12 and

**it was unanimously resolved:**

that the meeting schedule be adopted as presented.

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**PUBLIC FORUM**

The Mayor re-opened the Public Forum

- a) A member of the public said he found the session with the Police very useful and wondered if the extension of CCTV could be directed to the major areas in which dog owners' behaviour is anti-social.
- b) The future of the Lifeguard Hut was raised and County Councillor Susan Scoccia said that she understood that if the hut was let to anyone else for any other purpose it would only be on a short lease. The Town Clerk was asked to establish what the County Council's intentions were in this regard.

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**45/11 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 8.50 pm

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SIGNED BY THE MAYOR	DATE