



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

ST MARGARET'S HALL

7PM

13 JUNE 2011

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## MEMBERS PRESENT

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

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## SUBJECT

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### PUBLIC FORUM

The Mayor opened the Public Forum with 12 members of the public present. County Councillors Susan Scoccia and Chris Welsford were also present.

- a) Councillor Susan Scoccia asked about the Putting Green and the Town Clerk said that discussions were in progress about the future arrangements for it.
- b) She went on to ask about the shelter in the Park, drawing attention to its current uses and supporting any proposal to remove it. The Mayor said that this was on the Agenda for later decision tonight.
- c) Bob Bowden spoke about his interest in developing a positive approach to the issue of dog fouling. Councillor Welsford said that he had discussed the issue with the Isle of Wight Council's Director Stuart Love. The Mayor said that he hoped a working party would develop to address this serious issue.
- d) Councillor Scoccia asked about the fact that the Mayor was not wearing the Chain of Office. The Mayor responded that he had reasons for not doing so and was happy to discuss those reasons directly with any resident wishing to explore that further

The meeting commenced at 7.10 pm

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### 86/11 APPOINTMENT OF TOWN COUNCILLOR

The Mayor reported on the informal meeting that had taken place with Ventnor Resident Russell Hall following his expression of interest in co-option to the Town Council to represent the St Lawrence Ward.

**It was unanimously resolved:**

that Russell Hall be appointed as a Member of the Town Council to represent the St Lawrence Ward with immediate effect.

After signing the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form Russell Hall joined the Members at the table.

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### 87/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Jim Toogood.

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### 88/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

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### 89/11 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Town Council meeting of 9 May 2011 were considered.

**It was unanimously resolved:**

that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 9 May 2011 be agreed as an accurate record of the business of that meeting and be signed accordingly by the Mayor.

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#### 90/11 FINANCE

- a) The Finance report for this meeting had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 May 2011 and a list of payments made during May 2011.
  - b) An accompanying paper set out the related expenditure in relation to the Budget lines for the year to 10 June 2011.
  - c) The donations received to the First Aid project were noted and the Town Council's appreciation of the contribution these additional funds would make to the project were expressed and the donors thanked for them.
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#### 91/11 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS & ANNUAL RETURN

The Annual Accounts for the financial year 2010/11 and pages 2 and 3 of the Annual Return had been previously circulated to Members.

**It was unanimously resolved:**

That the Annual Accounts and the Annual Return for the Financial Year 2010/11 be accepted and the Annual Return be signed by the Mayor accordingly.

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#### 92/11 APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

The Town Council recorded its appreciation of the work of Gareth Hughes as its Internal Auditor for 2010/11.

**It was unanimously resolved:**

that Gareth Hughes be appointed as the Town Council's Internal Auditor for the financial year 2011/12.

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#### 93/11 LEAD RESPONSIBILITIES

The Mayor introduced the item, referring to the listing agreed at the previous informal meeting as set out in the accompanying paper and asked that they be ratified subject to inclusion of new Town Councillor Russell Hall following further discussions.

**It was unanimously resolved:**

that the Lead Responsibilities as outlined in the paper for this meeting be adopted and implemented.

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#### 94/11 BEACH SAFETY

- a) A paper setting out the steps taken to implement the decision of the Town Council to put in place a First Aid service for the beach from June to September had been previously circulated to Members.
  - b) Councillor Rees expressed his continuing concern about the significance of the withdrawal of the Lifeguarding Service for the Blue Flag status. The Town Clerk was asked to seek further clarification.
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#### 95/11 BONCHURCH TOILET: SHORE ROAD

- a) Councillor David George introduced this item and the related report that had been previously circulated to Members. He reminded everyone that a petition of over 1,300 signatures had been raised and recently presented to Isle of Wight Councillor Edward Giles.
  - b) It was made clear in the response that there was no possibility of changing the decision. Councillor David George said the only way in which the Shore Road Toilet could be re-opened would be if the Town Council took responsibility for it on the offered terms of a 125 year lease with consequential responsibility for all costs involved in its operation including repair and maintenance.
  - c) He noted that the costs listed in the accompanying paper were only estimates and that additional charges for cleaning and locking would not have to be met due to the very
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welcome and much appreciated offer of a local family to provide these services.

- d) County Councillor Chris Welsford, on the invitation of the Mayor to comment, said how much it would be appreciated if the Town Council were to enter into the necessary agreement.
- e) Councillor David George thanked the Bonchurch residents who had led this campaign.
- f) Councillor Harry Rees said that the evidence of the 1,300 signatures enabled support for moving forward on this and that he felt the total cost may well be of the order of £3,500.

**it was unanimously resolved:**

that the Town Council adopt the Shore Road Toilets.

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**96/11 VENTNOR CARNIVAL**

- a) Councillor Debby Robinson introduced this item saying that the Carnival Committee had indicated a funding shortage that she had then indentified in discussions with them as being £1,700.
- b) She said that among the causes of the shortfall was the requirement to pay a £900 a year rent to the Isle of Wight Council for space on the Industrial Estate.
- c) On the invitation of the Mayor, Councillor Susan Scoccia said that the Mayor was understood to be the President of the Carnival and could attend the meetings. She responded positively to a request from Councillor Robinson to explore a rent reduction from the Isle of Wight Council.
- g) Councillor Harry Rees commented that all Carnivals are suffering at present. He also reported that the Ryde Carnival had chosen the same night as Ventnor's and asked that a letter of complaint be sent to Ryde Carnival Committee.

**it was unanimously resolved:**

that the Town Council allocate an amount of £2,500 from its contingency provision with an immediate payment of £1,700 to cover the existing deficit and a potential further contribution of £800 subject to direct discussions between the Carnival Committee and the Town Council.

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**97/11 COMMUNITY TRANSPORT**

- a) Councillor Jim Morgan introduced this item following the withdrawal of Wight Bus services and an offer to local communities to provide replacement services using their vehicles and financial support from Southern Vectis and the Isle of Wight Council.
- b) He reported on his understanding that there is already a proposal for such a scheme for Ventnor West to Niton and Chale, but that clearly would not compensate for the loss of the 31 service to Bonchurch.
- c) He further pointed out that Wight Bus vehicles on offer were too large to serve Bonchurch and other confined areas.
- d) A proposal was being developed to replace the 31 service with some improvements and increased passenger base. He asked that Ventnor Town Council support the proposal.
- e) County Councillor Susan Scoccia, at the Mayor's invitation stated that all the costs of these schemes would be met between the Isle of Wight Council and Southern Vectis.

**It was unanimously resolved:**

that the Town Council supports continued exploration of a scheme to replace the withdrawn 31 bus route and asks Councillor Jim Morgan to report back in due course.

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**98/11 PARK SHELTER REMOVAL**

- a) Councillor Debby Robinson stated that the shelter in Ventnor Park was no longer used for its original purpose and attracts other activities that are often antisocial.
- b) She asked that the Isle of Wight Council be requested to remove it.

**It was resolved, with one abstention:**

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that the Town Council request the Isle of Wight Council to remove the Park Shelter.

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#### 99/11 PLANTERS IN TOWN

- a) Councillor Debby Robinson followed up previous Town Council discussions about achieving more sustainable planting, saying that after a closer look at available spaces she was convinced that there were plenty of them.
  - b) Planters vary in style, materials and cost and more research and discussion was necessary.
  - c) Councillor David George observed that it would fit well with the Green Town agenda where it could be further discussed.
  - d) Councillor Jim Morgan commented that he had discussed the possibilities with Ventnor Botanic Gardens who were very willing to engage in collaborative experimental planting with the Town Council.
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#### 100/11 DOGS ON BEACHES

- a) The Town Clerk referred to the previously circulated letter from the Isle of Wight Council's Deputy Director of Economy, Tourism and Leisure in response to the Town Council's request for an extension in the period for which dogs were excluded from the beach.
  - b) This was a refusal to extend the period as the Isle of Wight Council wished to maintain a consistent policy across all the Island's beaches.
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#### 101/11 GREEN TOWN

- a) Councillor David George reported on the latest developments in the Green Town project.
  - b) He said that the Steering Group was now well established and that the Information Day had been successful.
  - c) He asked members to note that the next Steering Group meeting had been arranged for 23 June at the Library.
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#### 102/11 TOWN BUNTING

- a) Councillor Debby Robinson said that it was clear in last year's celebrations that the existing bunting was no longer usable and some replacement was desirable.
- b) Bespoke replacement had proved too expensive for the necessary 350 metres and although standard ranges were colourful and much cheaper another possibility was the use of redundant spinnakers at approximately £400.

**It was unanimously resolved:**

that the Town Council adopt this solution subject to sight of a sample length.

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#### 103/11 ISLAND GAMES CYCLE RACES

- a) Councillor Harry Rees reported on a recent meeting he had requested and attended with the Operations Manager of the Island Games, Mark Williams of the Isle of Wight Council's Highways Service and Lee Matthews, the liaison officer between the Council and the Games in respect of the logistics for the Cycle races to be held in Ventnor Town Centre on Sunday 26 June 2011.
  - b) He reported that the Central Area would be closed all day on 26 June with a traffic plan in operation from 8am - 8pm. He said he was very disappointed at the Isle of Wight Council's refusal to re-open the Market Street toilets for the day.
  - c) Arrangements are in hand for a Park & Ride Scheme from the Middle School to operate during the day 11.30-1.30 and 4.00-6.00. Racing will start at 1pm with the finish at the top end of the High Street.
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#### PUBLIC FORUM

The Mayor re-opened the Public Forum

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- a) A member of the public asked what would happen to the now closed Village Road Toilet in Bonchurch and County Councillor Chris Welsford said he would take the matter up.
- b) County Councillor Chris Welsford said there were a number of deficiencies in the road surfacing that he had taken up with the Head of Highways and remedial work had been agreed.
- c) Earlier signage for traffic coming into Town from the east was requested to prevent motorists using a left turn against a No Entry sign as an escape when the road is closed.

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**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 9.40 pm

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SIGNED BY THE MAYOR	DATE

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