



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS

7PM

10 AUGUST 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors: Jason Mack (Mayor), Leigh Geddes, Brian Lucas, Stewart Blackmore, Ken Knapman, Tony Marvin, Steve Stubbings.

NO. SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Mayor opened the Public Forum with seven members of the public present.
- b) A member of the public asked about the damage to the Ventnor sign on the Wroxall entry.

98/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jim Toogood, Delian Backhouse-Fry, Harry Rees and Ed Gouge.

99/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Steve Stubbings declared an interest as a Member of the Isle of Wight Council specifically in relation to item 10.

Councillor Stewart Blackmore declared an interest in Agenda item 10.

100/15 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 13 July, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meeting of 29 July 2015 were noted.

101/15 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance report for this meeting (68/15) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 July 2015 and a list of payments made during July 2015.
- b) The balance of Town Council funds at the Bank on 31 July was £262,284.
- c) An accompanying paper set out expenditure in relation to the Budget lines for the 2015/16 financial year to date with variances from year-to-date budget provision showing an overspend over the first four months of £1,578 against Budget.
- d) It was noted that the Town Council was holding a total of £19,050 on behalf of the group working to retain the Methodist Church as a venue for the Boxing Club that is not included in the balance figure in (b) above.

It was unanimously resolved that:
the Finance Report be accepted.

102/15 VENTNOR LIBRARY CONSULTATION

- a) Report 69/15 for this meeting summarised the background to the current Isle of Wight Council's consultation on the future of its Library Service together with its proposals for the future of Ventnor Library and identified the case for the town's Library to remain fully part of the mainstream Public Library Service.
- b) Councillor Brian Lucas commented that the Issues figures measure how libraries used to be

used and doesn't reflect their range of present functions and activities.

- c) Councillor Tony Marvin argued that the response to the consultation should include the question of relocation but Council Ken Knapman felt that the two matters of the resourcing of the Library and the specific location were better separated.
- d) There was general agreement that whether relocation would be significantly capital funded by the Isle of Wight Council is a decision that needs to be made as soon as possible.

It was unanimously resolved:

to make a formal corporate response to the current Isle of Wight Council consultation on the future of the Library Service based on the case set out in sections 4-7 of Report 69/15.

103/15 LOCALITY WORKING

- a) The latest developments in the Town Council's interest in establishing direct engagement with the developing organisational structures for the delivery of local working in the South Wight Locality were summarised in Report 70/15.
 - b) Councillor Ken Knapman congratulated the Chair and Clerk on progress to date on this matter.
 - c) Councillor Steve Stubbings agreed that structures were still emerging and welcomed the signs of the evolution of a South Wight Locality Cluster in response to this issue.
 - d) Councillor Leigh Geddes said that she very much welcomed the positive response from a range of the area's Town and Parish Councils to the Ventnor Town Council's proposals.
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104/15 SALISBURY GARDENS

- a) It was noted that expenditure during the first nine months of the building's operation - from 1 October 2014 to 31 July - totalled £31,824 against income received of £45,654, giving a surplus of £13,830.
- b) The expenditure included the significant restoration work to the west facing wall carried out to a very high standard by Wight Heritage Preservation and the first two six-monthly repayments to the Public Works Loan Board.
- c) The Shanklin and Ventnor Safer Neighbourhood Teams had taken up occupancy of their four rooms at Salisbury Gardens as their new base on 3 August.
- d) Thanks were expressed to the Mayor, staff team and Councillor Jim Toogood for a development that represented a remarkable achievement by the Town Council.

It was unanimously resolved:

to provide the Ventnor Neighbourhood Police team with two additional parking spaces at Salisbury Gardens at an annual charge of £240.

105/15 ESPLANADE NOTICEBOARD

- a) Report 72/15 provided the background for the possibility for the Town Council to take over the control of the Esplanade Noticeboard with immediate effect and the costs of its refurbishment.
- b) Councillor Brian Lucas asked that it was used particularly for information relevant to tourists.

It was unanimously resolved that:

the Town Council agrees to take over responsibility for the management of the Esplanade Noticeboard and to allocate a sum of £600 for its restoration.

106/15 CAR PARKS

- a) Report 73/15 summarised a number of matters related to the Town Council's takeover of the management of the Dudley Road, Market Street, Pound Lane and Shore Road Car Parks
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from 1 August.

- b) It included information on signage, public indemnity insurance, resident permits and financial arrangements.
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107/15 ISLAND LINE

- a) Councillor Ken Knapman introduced this item and the draft resolution tabled at this meeting saying that he saw no reason for anyone to interfere with the continued arrangements for the operation and funding of Island Lime that is also important to Ventnor residents.
- b) Councillor Tony Marvin said that although he was certainly interested in the future of Island Line he was far from sure that all the options have yet been clarified.
- c) Councillor Stewart Blackmore told the meeting that there is no evidence anywhere in the country that a network the size of the Island Line has existed outside of one of the franchises.
- d) Councillor Brian Lucas commented that he was happy to support the resolution but it needed to be recognised that the line desperately needs investment and welcomed the Isle of Wight Council's employment of a consultant to clarify options.
- e) Councillor Leigh Geddes said that she would support the resolution if line still ran to Ventnor but as it doesn't she intended to abstain.
- f) Councillor Tony Marvin added that he too would abstain as he wanted consideration of other potential futures including solutions that would link to Ventnor and Newport.
- g) Councillor Steve Stubbings rounded off the discussion by stating that an integrated transport strategy for the Island was essential.

It was proposed by Councillor Ken Knapman, seconded by Councillor Stewart Blackmore and resolved with three abstentions that:

Ventnor residents have an interest in the continuation of a railway line running to Ryde from Shanklin and so the Town Council requests that the most logical course to take for Island Line, is to stay within the existing franchise and not follow the uncertain route of a Community Interest Company or any ambiguous locally funded exercise.

TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

- 109/15 a) The Town Clerks report – 74/15 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions.
- b) It included sections on Apprentice Funding, Maternity cover, 31 Bus route, Springhill Gardens clearance, the Skatepark, the Paddling Pool and Working Groups.
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PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Chair re-opened the Public Forum.
- b) Evelyn Knowles thanked the whole Town Council for its very positive support for Ventnor Library.
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THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.30PM

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR	DATE
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