



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS

7PM

14 SEPTEMBER 2015

## MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors: Jason Mack (Mayor), Leigh Geddes, Brian Lucas, Harry Rees, Ken Knapman, Tony Marvin, Ed Gouge, Delian Backhouse-Fry. Jim Toogood,

## NO. SUBJECT

### PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Mayor opened the Public Forum with one member of the public present.
- b) There were no questions or comments from the public at this stage

### 110/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Steve Stubbings.

### 111/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest at this time.

### LYING MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 10 August 2015, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meetings of 12 August 2015 and 2 September 2015 were noted.

### 113/15 PRESENTATION BY IOW HANG GLIDING & PARAGLIDING CLUB

- a) Club Chairman Paul Street introduced the previously circulated proposal for the use of part of St Boniface Down as one its sites and asked for the Town Council's endorsement of their application to the National Trust.
- b) Paul introduced the briefing document the Club had provided by saying that the sport was now over 20 years old and in this country is very strictly regulated. Safety rules are taken very seriously and members act as custodians of the countryside and only fly with permission of landowners.
- c) The Club already has many sites on the Island but St Boniface is particularly interesting. Rules about use of the site will be strictly observed and never more than 10 Members would be flying at any one time.
- d) A Risk Assessment is done on every occasion and the approach is always one of working with nature not against it.
- e) Councillor Brian Lucas sought assurance about levels of Insurance available and it was given. He also asked about spooking of horses.
- f) Councillor Harry Rees thanked the visitors for a very comprehensive report and asked why the use of the site was lost in 2001 and Paul replied that this related to the days when the larger hang gliders were being used.
- g) Councillor Ed Gouge asked about the safety of beach landings at times when they are populated. Paul said that it is possible to control where landing takes place and no-one would be allowed to fly that was not capable of doing so.
- h) Councillor Ken Knapman said that he welcomed the development but wondered about the impact of overflying houses. Paul said that the interest was in flying over the back of the site

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- not over built up areas and as they are travelling at around 20mph hovering is not possible.
- i) Paul stressed that the Club is a not for profit organisation and does not take money for flights.
  - j) He concluded by saying, in response to Councillor Leigh Geddes' question about when flying would start, that it was unlikely to be before March 2016.

**It was unanimously resolved that:**

the Town Council endorses the Club's application to the National Trust.

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**114/15 FINANCE REPORT**

- a) The Finance report for this meeting (75/15) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 August 2015 and a list of payments made during August 2015.
- b) 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 underspend over the first five months of £3,013 against Budget.
- c) It was noted that the Town Council was holding a total of £18,050 on behalf of the group working to retain the Methodist Church as a venue for the Boxing Club that is not included in the bank account totals above.

**It was unanimously resolved that:**

the Finance Report be accepted.

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**115/15 VENTNOR LIBRARY CONSULTATION**

- a) Report 76/15 for this meeting records the submission of the case for the retention of Ventnor Library as part of the main Island Library Service and includes a copy of the submission.
  - b) The Report was noted.
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**116/15 LOCALITY WORKING**

- a) The latest stage of the Town Council's engagement with the developing structures of the South Wight Locality for the delivery of Health and Wellbeing services within a My Life a Full Life approach is recorded in Report 77/15.
  - b) Councillor Harry Rees drew attention to the increasing level of savings the NHS Trust is required to achieve and the impact of that on these developments.
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**117/15 SURVEY RESULTS**

The analysis of the 434 responses to the recent Our Place Survey of all 3,500 Ventnor households asking residents to respond to 68 questions selecting from 304 tick boxes has been completed by our Economic Development Officer Nicky Cox and shared with Members at a Seminar on 5 September.

**It was unanimously resolved that the Town Council:**

- i) agrees to the publication of the responses to the questionnaire through the Town Council's web site, including the written comments; and
  - ii) authorises the Mayor to carry out the promised draw for the £100 prize from among those respondents that provided their contact details.
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**118/15 COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME**

- a) The details of the Isle of Wight Council's latest consultation – opened on 7 September – on nine options for reducing the discounts available to low income families had been previously circulated to Members.
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- b) Councillor Brian Lucas asked whether Members are qualified to comment on the proposals.

**It was unanimously resolved that:**

Councillors Jason Mack, Ed Gouge, Delian Backhouse-Fry, Harry Rees and Ken Knapman form a Working Group with the Clerk to consider the proposals in more detail and report back to the Town Council meeting of 12 October.

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**119/15 DEVOLUTION SCHEME**

- a) The document *Devolution for the People of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight: A Prospectus for discussion with Government* on behalf of the 15 Councils covering the geographical area of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight along with two Local Enterprise Partnerships and two National Park Authorities had been previously circulated to Members.
- b) Councillor Ed Gouge welcomed the devolution of powers from central to local government as a principle although there was little indication in the documentation of developments helpful for the Island.
- c) Councillor Harry Rees said that he was all for devolution but not as expressed in the current document and he commented that the example of the Local Enterprise Partnership reveals the diminution of the Isle of Wight.
- d) Councillor Delian Backhouse-Fry reminded the meeting of the importance of restoring the Island status within funding frameworks.
- e) Councillor Ken Knapman agreed with the comments of colleagues and said he had no confidence on the democratic nature of the current proposals or in the likelihood of the proposals being delivered in any of the identified themes.
- f) Councillor Tony Marvin said that although a considered response to the proposals by the Town Council was required there was little point in doing the work on that until it is known if the plans will be included in the Autumn Spending Review.
- g) Councillor Brian Lucas reflected on the fact that the proposals might be enforced on us.

**It was unanimously resolved that:**

The matter be considered further at the Town Council meeting on 12 October.

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**120/15 WORK IN PROGRESS**

- a) Report 81/15 listed the Staff Team's understanding of current areas of development in the Town Council's work.
- b) The Report was accepted as a record of the current developmental work of the staff team in line with the Town Council's strategic approach and with the support of the relevant Working Groups.
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**121/15 ISLE OF WIGHT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (IWALC)**

- a) Councillor Harry Rees reported on the latest developments within IWALC and his contribution to them.
- b) He noted that Gill Kennet was unanimously re-elected for a further two-year term at the Annual General Meeting.
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**122/15 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT**

- a) The Town Clerks report – 82/15 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions.
- b) It included sections on Basic Skills courses, Trampolines, Sick Leave, Men's Shed, Images of Ventnor, Working Groups and the Youth Offer.
- c) Councillor Ken Knapman drew attention to the potential reduction of the Isle of Wight
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Council's Adult Education staff in the near future.

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**PUBLIC FORUM**

- a) The Chair re-opened the Public Forum.
  - b) There were no questions or comments from the public at this stage.
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**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.28PM**

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SIGNED BY THE MAYOR	DATE