



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS

7PM

9 NOVEMBER 2015

## MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors: Jason Mack (Mayor), Leigh Geddes, Brian Lucas, Steve Stubbings, Ken Knapman, Tony Marvin, Ed Gouge, Delian Backhouse-Fry, Stewart Blackmore.

## NO. SUBJECT

### PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Mayor opened the Public Forum with eight members of the public present.
- b) Lesley Telford asked if consideration had been given to charging for toilet facilities.
- c) Nick Ballinger said he had looked at Island Roads' scheduling of works and was concerned that Ventnor appeared to be left longer than the state of the roads required.
- d) The Mayor said the Public Buildings Working Group would invite Island Roads' District Steward to one of their meetings to discuss the planning cycle.

### 137/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jim Toogood and Harry Rees.

### 138/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Steve Stubbings declared an interest as a Member of the Isle of Wight Council and, specifically, in respect of item 7 on the Agenda.

### 139/15 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 12 October 2015, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meeting of 21 October 2015 were noted.

### 140/15 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance report for this meeting (92/15) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 October 2015 and a list of payments made during October 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 overspend over the first seven months of £2,131 against Budget.
- c) It was noted that the Town Council was holding a total of £13,050 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 proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Tony Marvin and unanimously resolved that:**  
the Finance Report be accepted.

### 141/15 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Report 93/15 set out proposed meeting dates for the Town Council during the calendar year of 2016.

**It was unanimously resolved that:**

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the dates listed in Report 93/15 for this meeting be adopted.

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#### **142/15 CAR PARK LEASES**

Further to the Town Council's agreement to the Heads of Terms for the leases for the Dudley Road, Market Street, Pound Lane and Shore Road car parks at its meeting of 23 February 2015 and its delegation of the progression to a full lease to the Town Clerk advised by the Public Buildings Working Group, the Group's recommendation to agree the latest draft was set out in Report 94/15.

**It was proposed by Councillor Leigh Geddes, seconded by Councillor Ken Knapman and unanimously resolved that the Town Council:**

approves the current draft circulated to Members in advance of this meeting for signature by the Mayor.

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#### **143/15 VENTNOR LIBRARY**

- a) The decision of the Isle of Wight Council's Executive of 27 October 2015 to change the status of Ventnor Library from being part of the Island's main Library Service to that of a Partnership Library along with those of Freshwater and Cowes was noted.
- b) Councillor Tony Marvin said he believed it to be essential that if the Library is to remain at its present site a minimum requirement is that it be restored to a maintainable condition.
- c) Councillor Ken Knapman drew attention to the potential complications that the November statement might introduce in relation to the Isle of Wight Council's ability to fund the repairs.
- d) Councillor Brian Lucas said that the retention of the book service and the computer system were essential and Councillor Steve Stubbings said that Isle of Wight Councillor Ian Stephenson had been instrumental in securing Local Enterprise Partnership financial support for the Island's Library Service.

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

- i) authorise the Town Clerk to enter into detailed discussions with the IoWC's lead officers for these matters;
  - ii) ask its Public Buildings Working Group to discuss and develop the detailed negotiations on all the identified issues and report with recommendations to the Town Council Meeting of 14 December on progress to that date;
  - iii) recognise that this will provide the opportunity for the Town Council to provide further guidance to the Group and the Town Clerk for any additional work that needs to be completed before the need to make formal decisions at the Town Council meeting of 11 January 2016.
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#### **144/15 PUBLIC TOILETS**

- a) The decision of the Isle of Wight Council's Executive of 27 October 2015 to invite Expressions of Interest from Town and Parish Councils for the future ownership and management of Public Toilets in their area was noted.
  - b) Councillor Stewart Blackmore said that the Public Buildings Working Group had considered this matter over several meetings and acknowledged the importance of maintaining the facilities for both residents and visitors.
  - c) Councillor Brian Lucas said this would be an opportunity to upgrade the quality of the cleaning and appearance and Councillor Tony Marvin urged that the possibility of charging for use of the facilities be explored.
  - d) Councillor Leigh Geddes highlighted the advantages of taking on the freehold.
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- e) Councillor Ken Knapman said he agreed that the Town Council has no choice but to enter an Expression of Interest.

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

- i) agrees in principle to enter an Expression of Interest in taking on responsibility for the four toilets;
  - ii) authorises the Town Clerk to continue discussions with Isle of Wight Council Officers about the terms of any agreed transfer of ownership and management of the four toilets;
  - iii) asks the Public Buildings Working Group to agree proposals and costs for the cleaning of the four toilets following any such transfer; and
  - iv) requests a further report on the matter at its meeting of 14 December.
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**145/15 HSBC BANK BUILDING**

Report 97/15 outlined the offer from the HSBC Bank to allow the Town Council use of their building following its closure on 20 November with effect from 7 December on the basis of a Licence to Occupy

**It was unanimously resolved:**

to proceed with the temporary occupancy of the HSBC Bank Building in line with the outline of its use identified in this Report for the remainder of the current financial year.

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**146/15 SOUTH WIGHT LOCALITY FORUM**

- a) Report 98/15 summarised current developments in the emerging structures for the Locality-based delivery of the Island's Health and Wellbeing Services
- b) Councillor Steve Stubbings said that as Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board he would welcome the active involvement of Town and Parish Councils.

**It was unanimously resolved:**

to continue to seek acceptance of the Town Council's proposal for direct representation of the area's Town and Parish Councils through its Community Development Officer at the level of the Locality Management Group.

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**147/15 INDEX OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION 2015**

- a) A more detailed analysis of the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 data to show the ranking of Ventnor's four Lower Super Output areas with those of the whole Island was provided in Report 99/15.
  - b) Members welcomed the information and discussed the implications for the town and the Town Council's future policy direction in some detail.
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**148/15 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT**

- a) The Town Clerks' report – 100/15 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions.
  - b) It included sections on the meeting with the Leader of the Isle of Wight Council, a special meeting of the Town Council's Planning Committee, the meetings of the Working Groups and an Our Place grant application.
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**PUBLIC FORUM**

- a) The Chair re-opened the Public Forum.
  - b) There were no further questions or comments at this time.
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**149/15 EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC**

In view of the confidential nature of the following items:

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**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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**151/15 STAFFING MATTER**

- a) The Town Clerk outlined the current situation in respect of a member of staff who has been on long term sick leave.
  - b) Members were fully supportive of the action that had been taken and is proposed in this regard.
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**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.40PM**

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SIGNED BY THE MAYOR	DATE