



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS

7PM

11 JANUARY 2016

## MEMBERS PRESENT

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

## NO. SUBJECT

### PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Mayor opened the Public Forum with 9 members of the public present.
- b) There were no questions or comments at this time.

### 152/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ken Knapman, Delian Backhouse-Fry, Harry Rees and Steve Stubbings.

### 153/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

### 154/15 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 9 November 2015, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meetings of 18 November and 7 December 2015 were noted.

### 155/15 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance report for this meeting (102/15) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 30 November 2015 and a list of payments made during November 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 eight months of £2,408 against Budget.
- c) It was noted that the Town Council was holding a total of £11,050 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 Councillor Stewart Blackmore, and seconded by Councillor Tony Marvin and unanimously resolved that:**  
the Finance Report be accepted.

### 156/15 HSBC BUILDING

- a) A copy of the Licence to Occupy was attached to Report 103/15 for this meeting that updated Members on progress with the Town Council's temporary use of the building.
- b) Councillor Brian Lucas asked that the temporary office displayed details of the location of other cash machines now the HSBC one is no longer available.

### 157/15 VENTNOR CENTRAL LEASE

- a) A copy of the lease based on the Heads of Terms agreed in Minute 89/15 of the Town

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Council meeting of 13 July 2015 was attached to Report 104/15 for this meeting that also recorded the recommendation of the Public Buildings Working Group that it be signed accordingly.

- b) Councillor Stewart Blackmore said that this was another example of a forward thinking Council taking on assets of importance to the town.

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

approves the Lease as circulated to Members in advance of this meeting and authorises its signature by the Mayor.

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**158/15 VENTNOR LIBRARY**

- a) At its meeting of 9 November the Town Council authorised the Town Clerk, advised by the Public Buildings Working Group, to discuss and develop the detailed negotiations with Isle of Wight Council Officers and report back to this meeting of the Town Council.
- b) The outcomes of these negotiations were set out in Report 105/15 for this meeting together with a recommendation from the Public Buildings Working Group that they be endorsed by the Town Council at this meeting.
- c) Councillor Jim Toogood asked that efforts be made to reduce the cleaning and heating costs.

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

- i) confirms its commitment to full participation in a Partnership basis for the operation of Ventnor Library from 1 April 2016;
- ii) agrees to meet the running costs of the Library with the exception of maintenance and Business Rates and to fund an additional 22 hours of staff time;
- iii) authorises the Town Clerk, advised by the Public Buildings Working Group, to continue discussions with the Isle of Wight Council in respect of both the detail of the Partnership agreement and the future location of the Library.
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**159/15 ASSET TRANSFER**

- a) The Mayor introduced this item by adding to the detail in Report 106/16 his summary of the meetings referred to in it:
- with John Metcalfe on Wednesday 25 November to discuss a list of potential transfers derived from the discussions of the Public Buildings Working Group;
  - with the Leader of the Council and John Metcalfe, along with representatives of the larger Town and Parish Councils, on Tuesday 3 November; and
  - with the Leader of the Council, John Metcalfe and Dave Burbage, along with representatives of all Town and Parish Councils, on Monday 7 December.
- b) He added that the Isle of Wight Council were still considering an option for developing a Community Interest Company to manage services such as beach cleaning and grounds maintenance jointly by them and all Town and Parish Councils.
- c) Councillor Stewart Blackmore said that it had been established that it could be illegal for one town council to fund a service in another and Councillor Ed Gouge added that a legal opinion would be a requirement before any such proposal could be considered.
- d) The Mayor commented that any such project would run counter to the Town Council's strategy of securing local ownership of assets important to Ventnor's future.
- e) Councillor Brian Lucas reminded the meeting that the Town Council's proposals for direct control needed continuing town support for additional costs.
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**160/15 CAR PARKS**

- a) Report 107/15 was the first of the quarterly reports the Town Council had requested on the
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performance of the four car parks under its management.

- b) It also recorded the decision to provide free all day parking in the Dudley Road car park on the two Thursdays and Saturdays before the Christmas break.

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#### 161/15 AGE PROFILES

Following the publication of detailed population figures by age at Lower Super Output Area level by the Office for National Statistics the Town Clerk had set out age profiles for the four Ventnor areas in Report 108/15 for Members' information and discussion.

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#### 162/15 SOUTH WIGHT LOCALITY

- a) Report 109/15 summarised current developments in the emerging structures for the Locality-based delivery of the Island's Health and Wellbeing Services and the Town Council's engagement with them.
- b) Concern was expressed in respect of the lack of clarity about the current structures of the My Life a Full Life Programme and the limited understanding of or evidence for their effectiveness.
- c) The Clerk outlined the developments in Public Health's appointment of Locality Co-ordinators.

**It was unanimously resolved:**

to support the appointment of a Locality Co-ordinator to the Ventnor area and assist Public Health with the selection process and the successful applicant's work.

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#### 163/15 PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

- a) The recommendation from the Town Council's Planning Committee meeting of 7 December not to support the proposal from the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils for all Town and Parish Council to join in funding an additional Planning Enforcement Officer post was recorded in Report 110/15 for this meeting.
- b) The Committee Chair, Councillor Jim Toogood, introduced the recommendation and outlined the reasons for it.
- c) Councillor Brian Luas said that he agreed with the recommendation completely as any major issues would be dealt with by us.
- d) Councillor Ed Gouge added that the Head of Planning had told the Planning Committee at its recent meeting with her that Magistrates were unwilling to act unless the breach was both obvious and damaging,

**It was unanimously resolved:**

not to support the proposal.

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#### 164/15 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

- a) The Town Clerks' report – 111/15 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions.
- b) It included sections on the successful application for an additional Our Place Grant of £10,000, meetings with Upper Ventnor Community Association, the Youth Offer Partners and both Working Groups as well as the date for the Annual Consultation event set for Monday 25 January at St Francis Primary School.

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#### PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Chair re-opened the Public Forum.
  - b) Lesley Telford thanked the Town Council for its excellent work for the Library and Evelyn
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Knowles endorsed that.

- c) Nick Ballanger wished the Town Council well with its ongoing negotiations around Ventnor Central.

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**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.15PM**

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SIGNED BY THE MAYOR	DATE