



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS

7PM

8 FEBRUARY 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors: Jason Mack (Mayor), Leigh Geddes, Brian Lucas, Jim Toogood, Tony Marvin, Ken Knapman, Steve Stubbings, Ed Gouge

NO. SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Mayor opened the Public Forum.
- b) Wendy Marshall commented on the size, positioning and condition of many of the fly-posted event advertisements that diminish the town's appearance.

10/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

11/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Steve Stubbings declared an interest as a Member of the Isle of Wight Council and specifically in respect of item 8 on the Agenda.

12/16 POLICE SERGEANT RACHEL ROSCOE, SOUTH WIGHT PREVENTION AND NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

- a) Sergeant Rachel Roscoe explained the role of the team following the amalgamation of Ventnor and Shanklin staff now covering the area from Ventnor through to Yaverland.
- b) The emphasis, she said, is on prevention in identifying both potential sources of problem behaviour and the most vulnerable residents.
- c) Their first six months in the new Salisbury Gardens' office based has included establishing very positive relationships with other agencies active in the area and she commented on the healthy community spirit very evident in Ventnor.
- d) She described the team's reaction to the anti-social behaviour of New Year's Eve and stressed they were always open to learning lessons.
- e) Councillor Leigh Geddes asked how people could make contact with the Police and Rachel acknowledged that was more difficult now that Newport was the only Police Station open to the public and that contact needed to be by phone via either 101 or, for emergencies, 999.
- f) Councillor Ken Knapman said he was very grateful to Rachel for attending tonight and outlining the team's role. Rachel said that the team had six occasions each month when they are available in a public space for contact and that she would advise the Clerk of the times and venues for those sessions.

13/16 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 11 January 2016, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting of 12 January 2016 were noted
- c) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meetings of 27 January 2016 were noted.

14/16 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance report for this meeting (1/16) had been previously circulated to Members and

included information on Bank Balances at 31 January 2016 and a list of payments made during January 2016.

- 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 nine months of £1,374 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 unanimously resolved that:
the Finance Report be accepted.

15/16 BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2016/17

- a) Report 2/16 for this meeting set out the details of the Town Council's Budget for 2016/17 incorporating the requirement to fund the Public Toilets at Ventnor Park, Marlborough Road and the Esplanade as well as Ventnor Library and included a Draft Budget and Precept requirement calculation.
- b) Councillor Ed Gouge said that the Report shows clearly that the reason for the increase is to continue the provision of services and assets.

It was proposed by the Mayor , seconded by Councillor Tony Marvin and unanimously resolved by the Town Council to:

- i) confirm its Precept-related Budget for 2016/17 to be £283,779;
 - ii) set the Precept income to fund it at £271,809 together with the grant of £11,970 from the Isle of Wight Council, representing a £111.45 charge for the year per Band D Council Tax paying household; and
 - iii) ask the Town Clerk to inform the Isle of Wight Council accordingly.
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16/16 YOUTH OFFER

- a) The Town Council's Community Development Officer Tony McCarthy attended the meeting for this item to report verbally on the activities of and future plans for the Youth Offer Programme, the arrangements and funding details for which were set out in Report 3/16.
 - b) Tony said that Ventnor's was the only Town or Parish Council on the Island to be leading a Youth Offer programme.
 - c) He outlined the approaches of each of the three partner organisations delivering the new opportunities and their successes to date in already securing the engagement in the programme of 28 % of the relevant age group.
 - d) Councillor Ken Knapman congratulated Tony on his report and the team that developed the grant application and is now providing delivery to match. He added that he was greatly encouraged by the contribution of the Annual Consultation meeting of ideas for its future development.
 - e) Councillor Steve Stubbings added his thanks to Tony for an excellent report and the high level of achievement by the programme. He went on to ask how sustainable it was likely to be beyond the end of the current funding on 31 March 2017.
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17/16 ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL BUDGET

- a) In Report 4/16 for this meeting the Town Clerk provided a summary of Isle of Wight Council's approach to the challenges of setting a balanced budget for 2016/17 in the context of the ongoing major reductions in the central government funding and asked if Members wished to respond to the current Consultation on the issue prior to its closing date of 12 February.
 - b) Councillor Brian Lucas thanked the Clerk for the quality of the Report and said that he had
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- learned much from it and been depressed by much of it.
- c) Councillor Ken Knapman said he thought it was an excellent Report that should be read more widely and added that he had attended the recent Unite the Isle of Wight meeting.
 - d) Councillor Tony Marvin commented with respect to the committing of £4M from reserves that one of the 10 Military Principles of von Clausewitz is *maintenance of a reserve* with the advice that it is only committed if a knockout blow can be achieved. He added that no knockout blow was apparent in the budget proposal of the Isle of Wight Council but the document produced by our Town Clerk merited wider circulation as a good summary of the situation.
 - e) Councillor Leigh Geddes said that she felt sympathy for Isle of Wight Council in current circumstances.
 - f) Councillor Ed Gouge drew attention to the severe reduction in staffing with the consequent lack of resources for strategic development.

It was proposed by Councillor Ken Knapman, seconded by Councillor Leigh Geddes and unanimously resolved that: the Town Council's submits a response to the consultation based on sections 4) to 6) of the Clerk's report and Members comments on it at this meeting.

18/16 PUBLIC TOILETS

Report 5/16 set out the background to the requirement for the Town Council to accept freehold transfer of the Public Toilets at Ventnor Park, Marlborough Road, the Esplanade and Shore Road from 1 April 2016.

It was proposed by Councillor Steve Stubbings, seconded by Councillor Leigh Geddes and unanimously resolved that the Town Council:

- i) accepts the freehold transfer of the Public Toilets at Ventnor Park, Marlborough Road, the Esplanade and Shore Road from 1 April 2016;
 - ii) agrees to provide an in-house service for the cleaning of those at Marlborough Road and the Esplanade; and
 - iii) authorises the Town Clerk to recruit two part-time cleaners.
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19/16 ISLE OF WIGHT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (IWALC)

- a) Councillor Ken Knapman reported that the latest IWALC meeting received a presentation from the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty team.
 - b) He also suggested that the Town Council's response to the IWALC proposal for funding of the Planning Enforcement function be reconsidered.
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20/16 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

- a) The Town Clerks' report – 6/16 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions.
 - b) It included sections on the Annual Consultation, the appointment of a Locality Co-ordinator, Green Room Meeting Rooms, the Skate Park, Working Groups and the Resident Survey results.
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PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Mayor Chair re-opened the Public Forum.
 - b) There were no comments or questions at this time.
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THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.25PM

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

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