



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS

7PM

13 JUNE 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

NO. SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

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

82/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jim Toogood, Steve Stubbings, Ken Knapman and Stewart Blackmore.

83/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Harry Rees declared an interest as local business owner and private landlord.

84/16 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 16 May, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meeting of 1 June 2016 were noted.

8 FINANCE REPORT

5/16

- a) The Finance report for this meeting (33/16) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 May 2016 and a list of all payments made during May 2016.
 - b) Also included was a listing of budget variances for the first two months of the financial year.
- It was proposed by Councillor Harry Rees, seconded by Councillor Ed Gouge and unanimously resolved that:**
the Finance Report be accepted.

86/16 ANNUAL RETURN: GOVERNANCE

- a) The Annual Return for 2015/16 the Town Council is required to submit to its External Auditor by 5 July 2016, had been previously circulated to Members.
- b) Members considered the Governance Statements in the Return's Section 1.

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Harry Rees and unanimously resolved that:
the Governance Statements in Section 1 of the Annual Return for the financial year 2015/16 be endorsed as presented and the Mayor be authorised to sign Section 1 accordingly.

87/16 ANNUAL RETURN: ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

Members considered the Accounts Statements for the financial year 2015/16 in Section 2 of the Annual Return as completed in the circulated copy.

It was proposed by Councillor Harry Rees, seconded by Councillor Brian Lucas

and unanimously resolved that:

the Accounting Statements in Section 2 of the Annual Return for the financial year 2015/16 be endorsed as presented and the Mayor be authorised to sign Section 2 accordingly.

88/16 STAFF APPOINTMENTS

Members welcomed the appointment of Morgan Williams as the Town Council's apprentice in Business Administration and of Lauren Fry as the new part-time Youth Worker as set out in Report 36/16 for this meeting.

89/16 VENTNOR CENTRAL

- a) The decision of the Isle of Wight Council's Executive of 9 June to include the Ventnor Central site alongside two others – the former Island Learning Centre in Lake and Taylor Road, Newport – for which they have appointed Spectrum Housing Group as Special Purchaser was welcomed.
- b) Report 37/16 recorded the process that had led to this potentially very significant step in achieving the Town Council's aim of securing a new permanent site for the town's Library more central to the town and with parking facilities.
- c) Councillor Ed Gouge welcomed the development and asked how ownership issues would be resolved. The Mayor responded that the Library would be the equivalent of the Section 106 contribution.
- d) Councillor Tony Marvin said he hoped it would be possible to make the Library space available while the rest of the rebuilding continued.
- e) Councillor Brian Lucas asked about the Isle of Wight Council's proposals for the future of the existing Library site and the Mayor responded that it was expected to be sold.
- f) The Mayor invited the Friends of the Library present if they wanted to make any comments and Evelyn Knowles said that they were all very grateful for the work that had been done in developing the prospect of relocating the Library to the more central site of Ventnor Central.

It was proposed by Councillor Rees, seconded by Councillor Ed Gouge and unanimously resolved to:

note the progress to date and await further reports on progress in due course.

90/16 VENTNOR LIBRARY

- a) Report 38/16 covered the early stages necessary to embed the now agreed governance arrangements for the management of the Library on the basis of the Partnership Agreement between the Town Council and the Isle of Wight Council
- b) The first meeting of the Partnership Board will take place on 29 June and Members were asked to appoint the Town Council's representatives to it.

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

note the progress to date of the Partnership Agreement and appoint the Mayor and Councillor Ed Gouge as its members of the Partnership Board.

91/16 STRATEGIC PLAN

- a) The latest Strategic Plan documentation is now available on the Town Council's web site for Members to consider in advance of its proposed adoption at the July meeting
- b) Councillor Ed Gouge asked if it would be possible for a group of Members to be convened to talk through the new documentation and the Clerk welcomed the suggestion and said he would arrange a meeting for interested Members.

It was unanimously resolved to:

review the Strategic Plan documentation in advance of its proposed adoption at the Town

Council's 11 July meeting.

92/16 ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL PARKING STRATEGY

- a) Councillor Tony Marvin said that having skimmed the whole Report it had added to his conviction that local control should be pursued.
- b) Councillor Brian Lucas also stressed the importance and value of local control.
- c) Councillor Leigh Geddes said she agreed completely with Councillor Marvin.

It was proposed by the Councillor Harry Rees, seconded by Councillor Tony Marvin and unanimously resolved to:

submit a response to the current consultation on the Strategy making the case for local delegation of management responsibility to Town and Parish Councils.

93/16 BUTTERFLY PROJECT

- a) Councillor Geddes introduced this item based on the colony of Glanville Fritillary butterflies, introduced to an area along the Bonchurch revetment in 1991 and still defying the odds against survival for these butterflies within a sea defence scheme.
- b) She said that local expert Andy Butler is proposing a project to offer them ongoing protection funded by Natural England who are interested in protecting the colony that attracts interest from environmentalists world-wide.
- c) She concluded by saying that the project would develop more readily if the Town Council could negotiate control of the relevant land area from the Isle of Wight Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Leigh Geddes, seconded by the Mayor and unanimously resolved to:

authorise the Clerk to negotiate transfer of the relevant piece of land to the Town Council.

94/16 IWALC PLANNING ENFORCEMENT PROPOSAL

- a) Councillor Ed Gouge said the problem was complex because although enforcement is essential this proposal is different because it is not like the delegation of other services to specific town councils. He also wondered whether it was legal for one council to subsidise services made available to other areas.
- b) Councillor Brian Lucas said another problem was that the Town Council would have no control over the processes.
- c) Councillor Harry Rees said that legal advice was that if the scheme went ahead the Enforcement practice could not be confined those that had contributed to it financially.

It was proposed by Councillor Leigh Geddes, seconded by Councillor Tony Marvin and unanimously resolved to:

reconfirm its decision of 14 December 2015 not to support the proposal and inform IWALC accordingly.

95/16 ISLE OF WIGHT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (IWALC)

Councillor Harry Rees reported that IWALC would appoint new officers at its AGM next month.

PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Mayor Chair re-opened the Public Forum.
 - b) Lesley Telford reiterated the thanks to of the Friends of the Library to the Town Council for its work to secure a new location for the Library within the town centre.
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THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.16PM

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE
