



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS

7PM

11 JULY 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

NO. SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Mayor opened the Public Forum with three members of the public present.
- b) Maureen Cawley presented pictures of the work Ventnor Enhancement Fund (VEF) had done to upgrade the Shelter at La Falaise Car Park and provided a list of other sites that VEF might take on after advice from the Town Council.
- c) Councillor Jim Toogood congratulated Maureen Cawley and Ventnor Enhancement Fund on the quality of the work done to improve the Shelter and their contribution to the town.

96/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

97/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Leigh Geddes declared an interest as a Trustee of the Skatepark.

98/16 VENTNOR SKATEPARK

- a) John Cattle, Chair of the Skatepark Committee, had been invited to share with Members the plans for the future development of the Skatepark and outlined them to the meeting.
- b) He said that they were in the process of taking over control of the whole site including an ecology aspect with homes for lizards and transforming it into part of the landscape.
- c) Fundraising to support the plans for the site had raised £8,000 so far based on two very successful Art Auctions and a 30-hour Skatalon.
- d) The Committee estimates that a total of £150,000 will be needed for the design and build of the new facility and John estimated that a total of £20,000 would need to be reached to provide the basis for match funding for a Big Lottery bid.
- e) Councillor Ed Gouge asked if people attending the classes came from all across the Island and was assured that they did.
- f) Councillor Ken Knapman congratulated John on progress to date: a strong team with creative ideas developing a facility of credit to the town.
- g) Councillor Brian Lucas commented that the Big Lottery was increasingly looking for evidence of need and John said that data was being regularly collected, adding that paid-up membership now exceeded 100 and the development is catching the imagination of a lot of people.
- h) The Mayor thanked John for his presentation and assured him of the Town Council's continuing support for the Committee's work.

99/16 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 13 June 2016, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.

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- b) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meeting of 22 June 2016 were noted.
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100/16 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance report for this meeting (42/16) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 30 June 2016 and a list of all payments made during June 2016.
- b) Also included was a listing of budget variances for the first quarter of the financial year.

It was unanimously resolved that:
the Finance Report be accepted.

101/16 DATA PROTECTION POLICY

- a) A draft for an updated and comprehensive Data Protection Policy prepared for the Town Council as part of the Breaking New Ground element of the Our Place Programme had been previously circulated to Members.
- b) Councillor Brian Lucas asked if existing Town Council practice had been in accordance with this policy and the Clerk responded that best practice had always been the aim for the Town Council's work and welcomed the availability of such an authoritative policy document to be implemented.
- c) Councillor Tony Marvin asked about the responsibilities of Members in regard to the Policy and that prompted the Clerk to refer to developing plans for Members to have individual email addresses through the Town Council's now advanced server for all communications on Town Council business.
- d) The offer of the Mayor and Councillors Jim Toogood and Leigh Geddes to act as pilots for this change in practice was welcomed.

It was unanimously resolved that:
the Data Protection Policy as circulated be adopted.

102/16 LOCAL STRATEGIC PLAN

- a) In accordance with Minute 91/16 of its meeting of 13 June 2016, Members reviewed the set of documents forming the draft for its Local Strategic Plan for Ventnor at an informal meeting on Monday 4 July.
- b) The importance of the application of the Plan to operational and action levels was recognised.

It was resolved that:
the draft Local Strategic Plan for the town be formally adopted as the framework for the Town Council's future planning and work.

103/16 PUBLIC TOILETS

- a) Report 45/16 for this meeting provided the latest information on the Town Council's management responsibilities for the town's Public Toilets in respect of cleaning, costs, Business Rates and freehold transfer
- b) Members were concerned about both the apparent inconsistencies in the Valuation Office's approach to the Island's Public Toilets and the delays in the Isle of Wight Council's implementation of the freehold transfer of those toilets taken on by Town and Parish Councils.
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104/16 VENTNOR LIBRARY

- a) The draft Minutes of the first meeting of the Partnership Board and the confirmed Terms of
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Reference for the Partnership Library's Steering Group were attached to Report 46/16.

- b) Councillor Jim Toogood said he was very concerned about the need for timely action by the Isle of Wight Council and Spectrum Housing given that access to the Housing Corporation Grant for the building programme on the site of Ventnor Central to accommodate the Library required completion by March 2018.
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105/16 SCHOOL TRANSPORT CHARGES

The Mayor introduced this item and his suggestion that a decision on the matter be deferred until fuller information is available was agreed.

106/16 DEVOLUTION PLANS

- a) As key stakeholders, Town & Parish Councils were invited in a letter of 1 July 2016 from the Isle of Wight Council's Chief Executive to provide *your provisional views on whether you agree with our draft conclusion that the creation of a Combined Authority across the three councils [Portsmouth City Council, Southampton City Council and the Isle of Wight Council] will help deliver improvements for the Solent economy and quality of life for local people.*
- b) The invitation is an essential part of the statutory process for establishing a Solent Mayoral Combined Authority: a Governance Review conducted by each of the three Councils with stakeholder responses being required by 13 July to inform the decision of the Isle of Wight Council's Executive the following day on whether to proceed to the next stage: a major 6-week public consultation.
- c) In view of the significance of the matter and the short-time available for responses, the Town Council met informally on 7 July to give detailed consideration to it.
- d) Councillor Stewart Blackmore said that although he had reservations about aspects of the Governance Scheme he was clear that the limited options available to the Isle of Wight Council meant that he would support the draft conclusion of the Isle of Wight Council that the Combined Authority would offer potentially better opportunities for the Island's economic development and regeneration.
- e) Councillor Ken Knapman apologised for being unable to attend the informal meeting on this matter as he did not agree that the Combined Authority would be of value to the Island and that it offered no solution to the Isle of Wight Council's Budgetary challenges.

It was resolved to:

inform IWALC and the Isle of Wight Council that:

- i) after careful consideration of the fiscal restraints and significantly reduced and restricted resources of the Isle of Wight Council and the potentially significant opportunities available through the establishment of a Solent Mayoral Combined Authority, it agrees with the Isle of Wight Council's draft conclusion that the creation of a Solent Combined Authority will help deliver improvements for the Solent economy and quality of life for local people; and
- ii) the Town Council looks forward to the opportunity to contribute to the consultation on the draft *Governance Scheme* if the Isle of Wight Council decides to proceed to that stage of the process.
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107/16 MY LIFE A FULL LIFE

- a) Report 48/16 provided details of the Pre-consultation Business Case prepared by the Whole Integrated System Review element of the My Life a Full life programme approved by the recent meeting of the Island NHS Trust.
- b) In addition to the introduction to the document, its sections on Governance and Consultation were attached to the Report.
- c) The Clerk highlighted the absence of any reference in the extensive document about the
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future of health and wellbeing services on the Island to Town and Parish Councils and added that the promised meeting with senior staff of the programme had now been arranged for 18 July,

It was unanimously resolved to:

note the contents of the Pre-Consultation Business Case as the current stage of the process.

108/16 ISLE OF WIGHT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (IWALC)

No report was available at this time.

109/16 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

- a) The Town Clerks' report – 49/16 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions at this time.
 - b) It included information on the Annual Return, the start dates for two new staff members, a visit from Bembridge Parish Council, the Public Buildings Working Group and Community Development Working Group meetings and the response to the Isle of Wight Council's Car Parking Strategy.
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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 8.40PM

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

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