



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS

7PM

12 SEPTEMBER 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors: Jason Mack (Mayor), Leigh Geddes, Tony Marvin, Jim Toogood, Ken Knapman, Ed Gouge, Stewart Blackmore, Delian Backhouse-Fry.

NO. SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Mayor opened the Public Forum with three members of the public present.
- b) A member of the public asked about the plans for the development of Ventnor Central.
- c) Wendy Marshall asked about preserving the foundation stones in the rebuilt structure.
- d) She went on to comment that two of the Esplanade life rings had been removed and one found and replaced. She also referred to the occasional allowing of dogs on the beach and the difficulties of enforcing the seasonal ban.
- e) Other concerns were about the growth of the hedge around the North Street Playground and flyposting.

123/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Steve Stubbings, Brian Lucas and Harry Rees.

124/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest at this time.

125/16 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 8 August 2016, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meeting of 23 August 2016 were noted.

112/16 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance report for this meeting (59/16) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 July 2016 and a list of all payments made during August 2016.
- b) Also included was a listing of budget variances for the first five months of the financial year.

It was proposed by Councillor Stewart Blackmore, seconded by Councillor Jim Toogood and unanimously resolved that:

the Finance Report be accepted.

126/16 ANNUAL RETURN

- a) The External Auditor's certified copy of the Annual Return for the financial year 2015/16 with an unqualified assessment had been previously circulated to Members as part of the papers for this meeting.
- b) The two minor points raised by the Auditor had already been noted.

It was proposed by Councillor Jim Toogood, seconded by Councillor Ken Knapman and unanimously resolved that:

the Annual Return be accepted and its contents noted.

127/16 SOLENT MAYORAL COMBINED AUTHORITY

- a) Report 61/16 for this meeting recorded progress in developing the Town Council's response to the current consultation on the proposals and included the document prepared by Councillor Ed Gouge as the basis for the informal discussion meeting on them held on Monday 5 September.
- b) Councillor Ed Gouge said that the preferred option is a properly funded Isle of Wight Council but as that is not going to happen in the near future the choice is between the powers going to the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) or to the three Councils with Isle of Wight Council involvement.
- c) Councillor Ken Knapman welcomed the points made from the informal meeting and shared the assessment of the non-democratic nature of the LEP but said he will abstain on the recommendation as he is opposed to the whole development but keen to see the identified issues raised within the ongoing discussions.

It was proposed by Councillor Ed Gouge, seconded by Councillor Tony Marvin and resolved with one abstention to:

authorise the Town Clerk to prepare and submit a response by the Town Council to the current consultation on the proposals for a Solent Mayoral Combined Authority based on Section 3(b) of Report 61/16 and this meeting's discussion.

128/16 VENTNOR CENTRAL/VENTNOR LIBRARY

- a) The acceptance by the Isle of Wight Council's Executive meeting of 8 September of the proposals for the redevelopment of Ventnor Central to provide a new location for the Library as summarised in Report 62/16 of this meeting was welcomed.
 - b) Councillor Jim Toogood stressed the importance of acting early enough to ensure the project's delivery by 31 March 2018 as required by Spectrum Housing Group's funding constraints.
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129/16 PUBLIC TOILETS FREEHOLD TRANSFER

The continuing delays in the completion of the freehold transfer of the three Public Toilets and the decision of the Public Buildings Working Group to commission Condition Surveys of each of them as identified in Report 63/16 were noted.

130/16 ISLE OF WIGHT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (IWALC)

- a) Report 64/16 summarised the developments in the Town Council's discussions about possible changes to IWALC's constitution to enable a more proactive approach to the challenges and opportunities now facing Town and Parish Councils.
- b) Councillor Leigh Geddes said that she hoped the proposals would be considered in the same positive context in which they are being proposed.
- c) Councillor Ken Knapman commented that the basis for that had been established in the informal meeting Members had with IWALC's Chair and Secretary.

It was proposed by Councillor Stewart Blackmore, seconded by Councillor Tony Marvin and unanimously resolved to:

authorise the Clerk to present the proposals outlined in the Report to the IWALC meeting on 15 September as the view of the Town Council.

131/16 ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL/HEALTH SERVICES

- a) The Clerk's summary of the financial challenges faced by both the Isle of Wight Council and the My Life a Full Life programme's Whole Integrated System Review (WISR) in Report
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65/16 was discussed carefully.

- b) Councillor Ed Gouge said that the timetable since the appointment of the WISR Director was not helpful to the development of the New Care Models that NHS England were expecting and that it was unlikely the funding to deliver them would be available.
 - c) Councillor Delian Backhouse-Fry commented that it was essential for Island Status to be restored if the funding issues are to be resolved.
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132/16 MAYORAL CHAIN

- a) Councillor Jim Toogood introduced this item following the repair of the original silver Mayoral Chain that he showed to the meeting to discuss the possibility of it being placed in the care of the Ventnor Museum.
- b) However his discussions with them indicated that it would not be possible to guarantee it being on display in view of the pressures on space.

It was unanimously resolved to:

obtain a quotation for a secure display case for the regalia that could be fixed permanently in a suitable area of the Green Room and to check the level of insurance cover for it.

135/16 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

- a) The Town Clerks' report – 66/16 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions at this time.
 - b) It included information on the refurbishment of Benches, meetings of the Working Groups, use of the Green Room, the latest meeting with the members of the Upper Ventnor Community Association, changes to the Town Council's email addresses and the availability of Island Day Bunting.
 - c) Councillor Ed Gouge said that Island Roads taking no responsibility for refurbishment of benches on their network needs further discussion.
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PUBLIC FORUM

Evelyn Knowles informed the meeting that the Friends of Ventnor Library's Lottery application for £2,500 to buy 8 tablets and a secure table had been successful.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.10PM

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

| DATE
