



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS

7PM

10 OCTOBER 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

NO. SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no Members of the public present.

136/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Harry Rees.

137/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Steve Stubbings declared an interest as a Member of the Isle of Wight Council.

Councillor Leigh Geddes and the Mayor declared an interest as Trustees of the Heritage Centre.

138/16 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 12 September 2016, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meeting of 21 September 2016 were noted.
- c) The Minutes of the meetings of the Partnership Library Board of 14 September 2016 and the Partnership Library Steering Group of 27 September 2016 were noted.
- d) Councillor Leigh Geddes asked if there is concern about the timescale for the development of Ventnor Central, referencing Councillor Ed Gouge's comments about the need to run the demolition and planning process at the same time. He referred to the time need to ensure a suitable frontage for its position within the Conservation Area. Councillor James Toogood also expressed concern about the ability of the project to comply with the deadlines.

139/16 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance report for this meeting (67/16) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 30 September 2016 and a list of all payments made during September 2016.
- b) Also included was a listing of budget variances for the first six months of the financial year.
It was proposed by Councillor Ken Knapman, seconded by Councillor Tony Marvin and unanimously resolved that:
the Finance Report be accepted.

140/16 SALISBURY GARDENS HALF YEAR TRADING

- a) The Receipts and Payments summary for the period 1 April to 30 September this year was attached to Report 68/16 for this meeting.
- b) The trading surplus for the period was welcomed by Members..

141/16 PUBLIC TOILETS

- a) Report 69/16 set out the current position in the proposed freehold transfer of the Eastern

Esplanade, Marlborough Road and Ventnor Park toilets to the Town Council and summarised the Condition Surveys of them commissioned by the Town Council.

- b) Councillor James Toogood explained that the items identified in the Surveys can be dealt with comfortably within the Maintenance Plan he and the Town Council's Maintenance Manager are about to develop.
- c) Councillor Stewart Blackmore said that he supported the advice from Glanvilles and felt the discussions between the solicitors should continue. Councillor Brian Lucas said that the additional changes being asked for were the kind that Town and Parish Councils should resolve.

It was proposed by Councillor Tony Marvin, seconded by Councillor Stewart Blackmore and resolved that the Town Council:

- a) asks its solicitor to continue to progress the other proposed amendments to the transfer documentation; and
 - b) agrees the response to the Condition Surveys as set out in section 3 of Report 69/16.
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142/16 EASTERN ESPLANADE AREA

The Isle of Wight Council has suggested that as the Town Council is now responsible for the management of the Esplanade Paddling Pool under a 125 year lease and will soon own the Esplanade Toilets it considers taking over the whole of the area in which they are located.

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

agrees in principle to taking on responsibility for the area outlined on the map attached to Report 70/16 for this meeting and asks the Isle of Wight Council to prepare the related draft documentation.

COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME

143/16 The Town Council's response to the current consultation by the Isle of Wight Council on potential changes to its Council Tax Reduction Scheme was considered in the context of Report 71/16.

It was proposed by Councillor Ken Knapman, seconded by Councillor Stewart Blackmore and resolved that:

- i) none of the options set out in the current consultation on changes to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme be supported;
 - ii) the Isle of Wight Council be informed that, notwithstanding the seriousness of its predicted Budget deficit for 2017/18, savings that affect only residents on low incomes are unacceptable; and
 - iii) asks its Clerk to submit a response to the consultation accordingly.
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144/16 MY LIFE A FULL LIFE PROGRAMME

- a) The current stage of discussions with the senior managers of the My Life a Full Life programme about the direct involvement of Town and Parish Councils as the most effective channels for genuine community engagement was set out in Report 72/16 with a summary of the latest meetings.
 - b) Councillor Stewart Blackmore commented that residents did not understand what the My Life a Full Life Programme was, what services it delivered, or who benefited from it and that he was really disappointed about that as one who had really hoped it would work well.
 - c) The Mayor responded that My Life a Full Life was essentially a philosophy or brand.
 - d) Councillor Ken Knapman regretted that the programme was still resistant to Town and Parish Council engagement.
 - e) Councillor Steve Stubbings said that the problem was not simply a matter of resistance but rather one that stemmed from the fact that the senior staff involved were not used to dealing
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with Town and Parish Councils.

- f) Councillor Brian Lucas said he was pleased that the Town Council was pushing this forward but was concerned that others might not be willing to engage in the same way.
- g) Councillor Stewart Blackmore referred to the proposals in the draft Sustainability and Transformation Plan indicating the move of up to 30% of the NHS's services to the mainland.

It was proposed by Councillor Ken Knapman, seconded by Councillor Steve Stubbings and unanimously resolved that:

The Town Council continue discussions with the My Life a Full Life Programme Director to secure the constructive engagement of Town and Parish Council with the programme by delivering effective community engagement.

145/16 BEACH SAFETY REPORT

The usual Report (73/16) on the annual project operated from the Esplanade's First Aid Hut provided a listing of the incidents dealt with in its operational period from 1 April to 30 September.

146/16 VENTNOR HISTORY SOCIETY

- a) Councillor Leigh Geddes introduced this item, explaining that having completely refurbished their premises, increased the number of volunteers and improved accessibility of their archive the History Society has prepared a bid to Heritage Lottery Fund, assisted by Tony McCarthy, and is now asking for support from the Town Council for it.
- b) Councillor Ken Knapman asked if there were moves towards digitising the archive and Councillor Leigh Geddes said that was part of the bid.

It was unanimously resolved that:

the Town Council welcomes the very positive developments already achieved by the History Society, fully supports its Big Lottery Bid and asks its Clerk to provide an appropriate letter of support.

147/16 ISLE OF WIGHT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (IWALC)

In the absence of Councillor Harry Rees, Councillor Ken Knapman provided a summary of its recent business, referring to the consultation on capping Parish Council Precepts, the 20mph conference on 5 October; the Community Safety presentation at the latest Executive meeting, proposal for restructuring the organisation and the Youth Offer Workshop on 20 October.

148/16 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

- a) The Town Clerks' report – 74/16 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions at this time.
 - b) It included information on the Town Council's proposals for a restructuring of IWALC, a visit from Bembridge Parish Council, the latest Youth Offer Partners' Meeting, the Public Buildings Working Group and the Beach Cleaning programme.
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149/16 PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.30 PM

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE
