



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS

7PM

11 APRIL 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

NO. SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Mayor opened the Public Forum with 6 members of the public present.
- b) There were no questions or comments at this time.

35/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jim Toogood and Harry Rees.

36/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest at this time.

37/16 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 14 March 2016, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meeting of 31 March 2016 were noted.

FINANCE REPORT

- 38/16
- a) The Finance report for this meeting (16/16) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 March 2016 and a list of payments made during March 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,
 - 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.

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Tony Marvin and unanimously resolved that:
the Finance Report be accepted.

39/16 RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS 2015/16

- a) Report 17/16 included copies of the Receipts and Payments accounts for the financial year 2015/16 for both the Town Council and Salisbury Gardens.
- b) It was noted that the Town Council is required to produce its accounts on an Income and Expenditure basis and that these are expected to be available to the Town Council meeting of 19 May.
- c) Councillor Ken Knapman welcomed the provision of separate accounting for Salisbury Gardens as it reflected the success of the development.

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

accept the Receipts and Payments summaries of the cashbook for 2015/16.

40/16 PUBLIC TOILETS

- a) Report 18/16 provided updates on the transfer to the Town Council of the management of the Eastern Esplanade, Marlborough Road and Ventnor Park Public Toilets.
 - b) Councillor Ken Knapman said that this was a good example of the issues involved in taking on responsibility for local services.
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41/16 VENTNOR LIBRARY

- a) A revised draft of the Partnership Agreement for the management of the Library under the new terms that came into force on 1 April 2016 was attached to Report 19/16 for this meeting.
- b) It was noted that the draft was agreed by both the Town Council's Public Buildings Working Group and the Isle of Wight Council officers responsible for the new arrangements.
- c) The Agreement provides for the detailed governance arrangements for the Partnership to be in place by the 31 May 2016.

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

- i) approve the current draft Partnership Agreement and related Financial Commitment letter attached to this Report as the basis for the joint management of Ventnor Library; and
 - ii) authorise the Town Clerk, advised by the Public Buildings Working Group, and in consultation with the Isle of Wight Council, to progress a draft framework for the governance of the Library to be available to the Town Council meeting of 16 May 2016.
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42/16 IWALC SPRING SEMINAR

- a) The Major introduced this item with a report on his attendance at the Isle of Wight Association of Local Council's Spring Seminar held at the Riverside Centre on Friday 18 March 2016.
 - b) He commented that there had been little to be learned from the three speakers and that the workshop sessions did not take place as planned.
 - c) Councillor Ken Knapman, who had also attended the Seminar, added his disappointment at the failure to make much progress in developing IWALC's role and referred to issues of capacity as the limiting factor.
 - d) Discussion focused on IWALC's potential contribution during the promised visit to the Island of the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.
 - e) Councillors Stewart Blackmore and Ken Knapman said that it is important to be clear what questions need to be asked of the Secretary of State and who will ask them.
 - f) Councillor Brian Lucas asked what the Town Council and IWALC would be in a position to propose to that discussion and Councillor Ed Gouge drew attention to the lack of clarity about the promised study of the Island's issues by government and Councillor Steve Stubbings added that the date for the Secretary of State's visit had been postponed.
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43/16 BREAKING NEW GROUND

The end of grant Report for the additional funding secured as part of the Our Place programme for the development of the Operational Plan's Breaking New Ground element was attached to Report 20/16 for Members' information.

44/16 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

- a) The Town Clerks' report – 21/16 – recorded recent activity which did not require Town Council decisions.
- b) It included sections on the successful funding application to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, the latest Youth Offer Partners' meeting, the Working Groups' meetings, Ventnor Business Association, the Island's NHS Trust Strategy and a forthcoming WISR event.
- c) An additional item was news of the decision by BBC South to select Ventnor as one of its summer programmes celebrating community activity across their region with a visit on 4 May from 2pm to 7pm.

PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Mayor Chair re-opened the Public Forum.
- b) Lesley Telford asked if anything could be done to make the impression created by the Central Car Park Noticeboard more welcoming to visitors.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.15PM

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE
