



# SEA BREEZE PLAY AREA

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 67/12

12 NOVEMBER 2012

The purpose of this Report is to provide Members with a summary of correspondence between Ventnor Enhancement Fund and the Isle of Wight Council in connection with fencing of the Play Area.

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**No.    DETAIL**

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**1)    BACKGROUND**

- a) Members will recall that the Play Area was formally opened in 2010 at the conclusion of its installation by Ventnor Enhancement Fund on the basis of their successful bid for Playbuilder Funding in a total of £50,000.
  - b) An underspend balance of £2,050 was retained in the Town Council's account while Ventnor Enhancement Fund considered options for its commitment.
  - c) That balance was transferred to Ventnor Enhancement Fund at their request on 13 June this year in line with their decision to provide fencing for the facility.
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**2)    CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) A letter from Chair of Ventnor Enhancement Fund Bernard Cawley to the Isle of Wight Council's Matthew Chatfield of 17 July requested a contribution of £622 to bridge the gap between the £2,050 held by Ventnor Enhancement Fund and the quotation for the remaining fencing from their preferred supplier of £2,672 together with a request that the Isle of Wight Council 'manage' the VAT element of £534.
  - b) Matthew Chatfield's reply of 20 July referred Bernard Cawley to the Play England publication *Managing Risk in Play Provision* and states *we do not agree that the site needs further fencing, but if that is what the community wants to spend its money on we would not object.*
  - c) He goes on to offer 7 comments on matters Ventnor Enhancement Fund would need to consider if it chose to proceed with the additional fencing. The last of these states: *you should neither make any commitment nor start any works on site until we have seen and agreed a final specification for the project, including a timetable and method statement.*
  - d) Bernard Cawley wrote again on 12 August contesting the decision not to fund either the shortfall or the VAT element of the work. In his reply of 20 August Matthew Chatfield confirmed that *this is not work that we require ourselves. This is why we would not expect to fund it.*
  - e) The full correspondence is available for inspection by Members at the Town Council offices.
  - f) The accompanying letter from Bernard Cawley to Councillor Harry Rees asks that the project be placed before the full Council for their consideration.
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**3)    CONSIDERATIONS**

- a) The reasons why Ventnor Enhancement Fund wants to complete the fencing of the site are dog fouling within the Play Area and its closeness to the mini cliff that is hazardous to over excitable and non-streetwise children.
  - b) Ventnor Enhancement Fund is a registered Charity established in 2006 with the objects of: the preservation, enhancement and maintenance of public areas and amenities of Ventnor for the benefit of the public.
  - c) Its currently published accounts, for its first five years to 30 April 2011, show income totalling £29,197 and expenditure at £22,868. It has four Trustees: Michael Jennings, Maureen Cawley, Bernard Cawley and Joan Garlick.
  - d) The Town Council does not have a grants fund in the current year.
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