



VENTNOR BOXING CLUB

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 95/13

9 DECEMBER 2013

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on discussions aimed at securing the current venue for the Boxing Club's use in the medium term.

No. DETAIL

1) INTRODUCTION

- a) The Boxing Club has been based in the Methodist Church building on the High Street since its closure as a Church in 2008.
 - b) The building is now on the market with an asking price of £85,000 and the Agent's web site gives a closing date for offers of 29 November 2013. Details are [here](#).
 - c) There is no other suitable venue at this time in view of the need for the ring and surrounding fitness equipment to be permanently in place, making other uses of the area impossible.
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2) INITIAL ACTIONS

- a) Following a discussion between some Members and a resident considering the purchase of the building to make it available to the Town Council for the Club's use, Councillor Jim Toogood and the Town Clerk arranged a viewing of the building through the Agent.
 - b) The poor condition of the building was immediately obvious, as was the fact that the funding required to restore it was well beyond what any funding stream would be likely to provide for a single use building.
 - c) In any event, the potential purchaser withdrew.
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3) FURTHER INITIATIVE

- a) Councillor Brian Lucas has pursued discussions aimed at securing financial commitments to make a purchase feasible.
 - b) A potential rescue plan within those discussions involved the setting up of an appropriate corporate body with Town Council representation to hold committed funds and make an offer to purchase which, if successful and related issues could be resolved, would make the building available to the Club for its continuing activities until either the building becomes unsafe, an alternative venue is found or the Club is wound up.
 - c) Discussions have also taken place with the Methodist Church about the asking price and the deadline for offers: an expression of interest has been formally registered.
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4) TOWN COUNCIL COMMITMENTS

- a) Among the related issues, the safety of the building for ongoing use is clearly central. In view of the clear support from Members for exploring every possible route for sustaining the Club, I have already authorised the arrangement of a Structural Survey.
 - b) If the initiative is in a position to continue, two further financial commitments would be required from the Town Council.
 - c) One is the provision of Insurance cover for the building including Public Liability. The other is the Legal Advice required for setting up the most appropriate form of corporate body.
 - d) Councillor Brian Lucas will provide Members with the latest information at the meeting.
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