



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

ST LAWRENCE VILLAGE HALL

7PM

11 JULY 2011

## MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors: Steve Stubbings (Mayor), David George, Debby Robinson, Harry Rees, Carol Jones, Jim Morgan, Jason Mack, Jim Toogood, Russell Hall, Mark Robertson-Walker, Simon Haytack

## NO. SUBJECT

### PUBLIC FORUM

The Mayor opened the Public Forum with 12 members of the public present. County Councillors Susan Scoccia and Chris Welsford were also present.

- a) A member of the public asked about the Town Council's position in respect of the Botanic Gardens and the Mayor responded that the Town Council was fully supportive of the future of the Gardens and those involved with ensuring it. County Councillor Susan Scoccia explained the present situation from the Isle of Wight Council's perspective.
- b) The Mayor asked that the matter be on the Agenda for the next meeting with an update and Susan Scoccia said she would assist with that.

The meeting commenced at 7.05 pm

### 108/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence as all Members were present.

### 109/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Harry Rees declared a personal interest as Chair of the Ventnor Social Club.

### 110/11 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Town Council meetings of 16 May 2011, 13 June 2011 and 20 June 2011, having been previously circulated to Members, were considered.

#### **It was unanimously resolved by those present at these meetings:**

that the Minutes of the Town Council meetings of 16 May 2011, 13 June 2011 and 20 June 2011 be agreed as an accurate record of the business of those meetings and be signed accordingly by the Mayor.

The Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting of 27 June 2011 were received.

### 111/11 FINANCE

- a) The Finance report for this meeting had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 30 June 2011 and a list of payments made during June 2011.
- b) An accompanying paper set out the related expenditure in relation to the Budget lines for the year to 9 July 2011.
- c) The receipt of the bi-annual payment of £995.27 from Ventnor Tennis Club was noted together with its consequent payment to the Public Works Loan Board.

### 112/11 REVISED STANDING ORDERS

Revised Standing Orders based on the Model Standing Orders recently issued by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) had been previously circulated to Members

**It was unanimously resolved:**

That the revised Standing Orders be adopted subject to setting the time allowed for both Members and public contributions to 3 minutes.

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**113/11 MEMBER TRAINING**

The Town Council Clerk's paper on this matter had been previously circulated to Members, recommending acceptance of a course of three 2-hour sessions for recently elected and appointed Members delivered by Sue Chilton.

**It was unanimously resolved:**

that the Course be adopted as set out in the Town Clerk's paper.

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**114/11 VENTNOR CARNIVAL**

- a) The Mayor and Town Clerk reported on their meeting with the Ventnor Carnival Committee on Wednesday 6 July further to Minute 96/11 of the meeting of 13 June 2011.
  - b) Councillor Debby Robinson took the opportunity of this item to provide a sample of the new bunting that would be available for this year's Carnival. A demonstration was warmly applauded.
  - c) Councillor Debby Robinson was thanked for her initiative.
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**115/11 31 BUS ROUTE REPLACEMENT**

- a) Councillor Jim Morgan introduced this item. He said that a bid had been submitted to the Isle of Wight Council and, if the vehicle and volunteer drivers are available it was likely that approval would be granted.
  - b) He outlined the proposed route and frequency of operation.
  - c) Councillor Harry Rees commented that IWALC were active in this area and expressed concern that the funding was only for one year.
  - d) Councillor Jim Morgan thanked both County Councillors for their support in developing a bid.
  - e) Councillor Mark Robertson-Walker offered to discuss the details of the route with Councillor Jim Morgan after the meeting.
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**116/11 THOMPSON'S DIRECTORY**

Councillor Harry Rees expressed his concern that Ventnor was omitted from the list of Towns highlighted on the cover of the latest edition of Thompson Local.com.

**It was unanimously resolved:**

that the Town Clerk write to the publishers to seek clarification as to why Ventnor has been excluded from the front page.

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**117/11 DOGS**

- a) The Mayor introduced the item and thanked Bob Bowden for his emailed suggestions about a positive response to the problems that can arise given from dogs' irresponsible owners.
  - b) He proposed that a working group be set and Councillors Jim Toogood, David George, Debby Robinson offered to join him in it. Bob Bowden responded positively to the Mayor's invitation to him to join the Group.
  - c) Councillor Debby Robinson reminded the meeting that appropriate stickers had been purchased and required Isle of Wight Council permission to display them.
  - d) County Councillor Chris Welsford, at the invitation of the Mayor, said that the senior officer at the Isle of Wight Council was sympathetic towards actions directed to limiting the problems.
  - e) Councillor David George said that it was important both to target the actually irresponsible dog owners and ensure that the guilty were prosecuted.
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**It was unanimously resolved**  
that the Working Group be established.

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#### 118/11 VENTNOR BEACH

- a) Councillor Jim Toogood outlined a proposal to install a Mosaic depicting a Mermaid on the outside of the harbour wall. He explained that although the decision was one for the Isle of Wight Council, they had indicated that they would want the opinion of Ventnor Town Council before taking it.
- b) Councillor Jim Toogood then updated the Meeting on the latest position in respect of the seaweed in the harbour.
- c) Councillor Jim Morgan argued that the harbour should be put back to its previous condition by backfilling the hole that had been created as there was evidence that the hole was now part of the problem.
- d) Councillor Harry Rees proposed that an urgent meeting be arranged with Peter Marsden, the managers of the Harbour and Councillors Jim Morgan and Jim Toogood.
- e) It was noted that there is currently a vacancy for a Ventnor representative on the Beach Environment Advisory Committee.

**It was unanimously resolved:**

- i) that the Town Council support the siting of the Mermaid subject to sight of a drawing of it.
  - ii) that the Town Clerk formally requests the Isle of Wight Council's Director of Economy and Tourism, Stuart Love, together with appropriate colleagues, to meet with Ventnor Town Councillors Jim Toogood, Jim Morgan, Russell Hall and the Mayor and Town Clerk and to include County Councillors Chris Welsford and Susan Scoccia in the meeting.
  - iii) that Councillor Jim Toogood be appointed as Ventnor Town Council's representative on the Beach Environment Advisory Committee.
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#### 119/11 VENTNOR SHOP WATCH SCHEME

Councillor Harry Rees proposed that a Town Council representative be appointed to the Ventnor Shop Watch Committee and to the 12 Local Action Group

**It was unanimously resolved:**

that the Councillor Carol Jones be appointed as the Town Council's representative on the Ventnor Shop Watch scheme.

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#### 120/11 TIDY TOWN

- a) Councillor Carol Jones introduced this item by referring to the complaints she had received about the hole in Dudley Road that had been there for about two years.
  - b) She also drew attention to the continually deplorable state of the bus station including the dumping of used needles.
  - c) The Town Clerk will contact both the Co-operative and the agents for the Bus Station to seek clean ups of the areas as previously requested.
  - d) County Councillor Chris Welsford, at the invitation of the Mayor, explained the background to the Dudley Road hole and the legal dispute which was preventing the Isle of Wight CO
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#### 121/11 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

- a) The Town Clerk's Report for this meeting had been previously circulated to Members and provided up to date information on the successful reopening of Bonchurch's Shore Road Toilets, the First Aid Project and the Lottery Bid for an Outdoor Adult Fitness Area.
  - b) The Mayor asked that the Town Council's appreciation of the work of Evelyn Knowles in her committed completion of the second stage Lottery Grant application to the Community
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Spaces Programme as the potential funding for the Outdoor Fitness Centre.

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**122/11** Councillor Harry Rees, with the Mayor's permission, asked for the Town Council's support for raising the issue of the proposal in the Localism Bill about the future distribution of Business Rates at the next meeting of the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils (IWALC) given its potentially damaging impact on the Island's finances and it was agreed that he should do so.

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**122/11 INVITATION TO NEXT MEETING**

Councillor Carol Jones proposed that the Cranstoun Community Drug Agency's Service Manager Mandy Brown be invited to address the next meeting of Ventnor Town Council on Monday 8 August 2011.

**It was unanimously resolved:**

that the Service Manager of the Cranstoun Drug Agency, Mandy Brown, be invited to speak at the meeting of Ventnor Town Council on Monday 8 August 2011 and that similar invitations be issued to similarly key people with experience of and involvement in issues of significance for the Town.

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**PUBLIC FORUM**

The Mayor re-opened the Public Forum

- a) A member of the public expressed the hope that the Town Council's approach to concerns about dogs would be positive rather than negative and the Mayor assured him that would be case.
  - b) Another member of the public asked if it was possible to discover what targets, if any, the Isle of Wight Council had set for positive action in enforcement in this area.
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The Meeting closed at 8.50 pm

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SIGNED BY THE MAYOR	DATE

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